

Hafa Adai!

Man, 53, accused of kissing girl, 13. **PAGE 2**

MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 19 at Kensington. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

Manibusan takes oath for 3rd term

» **AG vows to engage the Palacios-Apatang administration in making changes to curb waste and abuse of public funds**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Edward E. Manibusan took his oath of office last Saturday for his third term as the CNMI's Attorney General and vowed to engage the administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and

See **MANIBUSAN** on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Edward E. Manibusan takes his oath of office for his third term as the CNMI's Attorney General before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Azucena last Saturday. Also in the photo are Manibusan's wife, Delfina, and family members.

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Seizure of alleged dirty money OK'd

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court the NMI has granted the United States' request to seize monies held by the court that is believed to be tied to an alleged money laundering scheme that was reportedly uncovered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation unit.

See **SEIZURE** on Page 4

Senate, House panel chairs named

» **Sen. Paul Manglona chairs 3 committees**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. De-Leon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S.



Villagomez

Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) have appointed the Senate and House committee chairpersons.

In a memorandum yesterday, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota)

See **COMMITTEES** on Page 4



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of the Mini Christmas Village Contest are awarded on Jan. 7, 2023, at 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas festival at the Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan. From left, first-place winner Lucy Deleon Guerrero, second-place winner Gina Nabetinan, third-place winner Sharma Iginoef Laniyo, and Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Jack Aranda. See story on Page 3

MVA

Manglona wants Treasury to probe BOOST

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) pre-filed yesterday a resolution requesting the U.S. Department of

Treasury to investigate the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds that were allocated to the CNMI.

Manglona, who chairs the Committee on Federal Relations, is

requesting the U.S. Department of Treasury to investigate the administration and awarding process of grants through the previous administration's Building Optimism,

See **BOOST** on Page 4



Manglona

INSIDE



LOCAL

Mount Carmel School's Knights wish everyone a joyous new year and holiday season.

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BUSINESS

United Airlines will be hosting a two-day career fair in Guam for open roles in Denver.

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LIFE & STYLE

Prince Harry has accused his stepmother, Camilla, of leaking private conversations to the media.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Pursuant to Section 5 A. of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC") Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") Program's Action Plan ("AP"), as amended (2022), this is to notify the general public about this proposed Substantial Amendment No. 02 and afford citizen participation and the opportunity to comment on this proposed amendment. The general public has thirty (30) days from publication date of this Public Notice to submit comments on these proposed changes to the CDBG-DR AP. Substantial amendments are required when there is a change in program benefit/eligibility criteria, addition/deletion of an activity, or reallocation of substantial amounts. A substantial amendment will also be required if any program changes exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). Substantial amendments must provide a reasonable opportunity (at least 30 days) for citizen comment. All changes must be documented by NMHC's CDBG-DR Program to provide both necessary and reasonable justifications. All substantial amendments will include the following:

1. The exact identification of which content is being added, deleted, or changed;
2. A clear description of where funds are moved from/to; and
3. The updated and revised budget after re-allocation of funding.

Furthermore, the proposed substantial amendment will be available via the CNMI CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com and hardcopies may be obtained at any of the NMHC central and CDBG-DR offices located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by those who do not have access to the Internet. Notifying the public is of paramount importance as these funds are largely dependent on public participation and the remaining unmet need to be assessed. NMHC will utilize the following avenues/outlets to notify the public of the CDBG-DR Program:

- Notices in the local newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Finally, NMHC will take reasonable steps to ensure very low-, low-, and moderate-income persons, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in this important CDBG-DR activity and in accordance to prescribed policies and procedures embedded in the CDBG-DR Program's Citizen Participation Plan. The aforesaid and complete Citizen Participation Plan may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website: www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com or found on Section 5 on the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 80-85). A copy of the CDBG-DR Action Plan, as amended by this proposed change, may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website at: www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com or obtained at any of the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Written comments are due by January 27, 2023 and may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.



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Local

Man, 53, accused of kissing girl, 13

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on a 53-year-old man who is being accused of molesting and sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed on Monday a \$10,000 cash bail on Carlo Dela Torre Enriquez, who appeared in the custody of Department of Corrections during his bail hearing last Monday.

Enriquez is charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At the hearing, Enriquez was represented by assistant public defender Emily Thomson while assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

Following the bail hearing, Camacho remanded Enriquez

back to DOC custody for failure to post bail. The defendant was ordered to return to court on Jan. 18 at 10am for a preliminary hearing; he will be arraigned on Jan. 30.

According to court documents, probable cause was found to charge Enriquez after a forensic interview the Division of Youth Services-Child Protective Services personnel conducted with the victim in December.

The victim allegedly told DYS personnel that she went to her friend and neighbor's house on Dec. 23 between

12pm and 3pm to "hang out" and bake brownies.

She said she was in her friend's bedroom playing a videogame when her friend left the room to use the restroom. While her friend was away, the victim said Enriquez entered the room and she immediately felt uncomfortable.

She said Enriquez touched her inappropriately and kissed her shoulders, above her upper lip, and chest. She added that at that moment she was unable to move or speak.

The victim said Enriquez

See MAN on Page 4

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars this January.

Webinars are held every Wednesday from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom. Zoom links are emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the webinar.

■ Jan. 11, 2023 – Teaming & JVs – The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.

■ Jan. 18, 2023 – SBA Mentor-Protégé Program –

The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements, the application process, and follow-up requirements.

■ Jan. 25, 2023 – SBIR/STTR Programs – These programs encourage inventors and innovators to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. The Guam PTAC will explain the programs and show how you can get started.

To register, visit: <https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

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Deleon Guerrero wins Mini Christmas Village Contest

Lucy Deleon Guerrero and her family topped the Mini Christmas Village Contest awarded at Saturday's final night of Christmas in the Marianas at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.

Deleon Guerrero walked away with a \$2,000 cash prize. In second place were Gina Nabetinan (\$1,500) and in third place was Sharma Igi-noef Laniyo (\$1,000).

Winning for best decorated booth and receiving \$500 was Kinpachi Restaurant. In second place was Chagi Norf Kitchen (\$300)

and in third place was Island Grindz (\$200).

Christmas in the Marianas is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority held during the Christmas and New Year holiday travel period. The event features live entertainment, food and drinks, a Christmas parade, illuminated sculptures, and more.

"On behalf of the MVA and our co-organizers PDM Promoters and Pacific Development Inc., I would like to extend a warm si yu'us ma'ase,



Kinpachi Restaurant wins first place in the booth decorating contest on Jan. 7, 2023, at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.



Island Grinds wins third place in the booth decorating contest on Jan. 7, 2023, at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.



Flores Sinsler performs on Jan. 7, 2023, at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.



Saipan Awaodori performs on Jan. 7, 2023, at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas in Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.

olomwaay, and thank you to all our sponsors and supporters and the public helping us bring back Christmas in the Marianas this year, with great success," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "Our warm community spirit is one of the qualities that makes rhe Marianas

a great place to live and visit. As we continue to work to revive the tourism economy, we invite everyone to share this spirit with our returning visitors in the year ahead."

Event sponsors were Hawaiian Rock Products and Dave Electronics. Supporters included Bureau of Coastal &



Simiyan Marianas performs on Jan. 7, 2023, at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas festival at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.



Saipan Music & Dance Studio performs on Jan. 7, 2023, at the 18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas at the Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.

Environmental Quality, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, Department

of Public Safety, Division of Parks & Recreation, Saipan Zoning Office, Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., RNV, and M&C LLC

For more Marianas events, visit the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. (MVA)



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Mayor RB Camacho pushes for sustainability within

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
Reporter

With Mayor Ramon “RB” Camacho now taking the reins of the municipality of Saipan, he has set a lot of plans for his term, with a call for self-sustainability to drive the response to the community’s needs.

In his inauguration day remarks last Monday, Camacho pointed out that, with the tourism industry not being where it once was pre-pandemic, and with the inflation of goods in the past year, “we should start looking within our island for sustainability.”

He said that fishing and farming are local industries that Saipan should continue to tap into for resources. “What industry do we have here? What if we, the community, the municipality of this island, create a local industry: the product from the ocean and the product from the land, so we can have sustainability and food security? We have to be mindful of this. Food security is so important.”

Camacho, who is a farmer and was the president of the Sabalu Farmer’s Market, recalled the late Tony Pellegrino, who was then the vice president of the Sabalu Mar-

ket, and had said that “we are stepping on the diamond and that we are not making use of that diamond. What is that diamond? The soil. We have to start to cultivate the soil. ... Let’s have this sustainability.”

Also, according to Camacho’s inauguration booklet, he will promote self-sustaining and health-conscious practices through community gardening.

Additionally, Camacho said that Saipan can’t rely on tourism alone. “For tourism... Japan and Korea [are] still a question mark on tourists coming here.”

In his opinion, it might take

another three or five years before the CNMI can start seeing an increase in the number of tourists coming to the CNMI once again, so he said, “We need to work together,” but that once they do come in, “Let’s introduce ourselves—who we are and what we are. Let’s give them what is locally grown,” Camacho said.

He also noted that “The CNMI government is not generating [money]. The other industry, the casino, is not moving. The casino before, when it was first established, was on its feet. Up and running. Now, the casino is on its knees—it can’t move.”



LEIGH GASES

Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” Camacho makes his remarks during his inauguration ceremony last Monday at the Saipan Mayor’s Office parking lot.

MANIBUSAN

From page 1

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang in making changes to regulations that are necessary to curb waste and abuse in the administration of contracts and other expenditures of public funds.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja administered the oath of office for Manibusan during a ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan’s Azucena Room.

Manibusan secured another four-year term after getting 7,524 votes against former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama, who received 6,113 votes, in the Nov. 8 general elections.

In his speech, Manibusan said they will be ready to provide legal advice to Palacios,

his executive department, the autonomous agencies, and public corporations on the basis of law and that they will demand their adherence to the rule of law. He said the Office of the Attorney General welcomes this new opportunity to effect changes in the function and operation of the new Palacios-Apatang administration.

“We have the opportunity to effect change to meet the demands of the institution of laws and regulations by engaging the leadership through meetings, providing timely legal advice and collaborating on matters beneficial to the interest of the Commonwealth,” he said.

Manibusan disclosed that they have already started work on assignment of counsels to work with Executive Branch agencies.

He said they will advance

their meeting agenda with individual department secretaries as soon as they take office to discuss ongoing issues affecting the agency and serving their legal needs.

In the near term, Manibusan said, he will work with the Legislature to pass laws that ensures the OAG’s independence from political interference.

He vowed to continue all efforts to protect consumers from unscrupulous business practices.

The AG said he will see to it that their office keeps the community safe by prosecuting those who commit violent acts.

He said he will continue to protect the environment and ensure an open and honest government.

Manibusan admitted that he was initially hesitant about

pursuing a third term and that he shared that hesitation with his family and colleagues.

“I looked back at my eight years in office and I asked myself whether I have fulfilled or attempted to fulfill the mandate given to the office by our citizens when they chose to elect their attorney general,” he said.

Manibusan said his term began with a budget crises when the government was looking for ways to pay its obligations and the Public School System was in a budget battle with the administration.

“We went through a state of emergency disasters in the wake of Typhoons Soudelor, Mangkhut, and Yutu,” he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

COMMITTEES

From page 1

was named chairman of three committees: the Committee on Rules and Procedures; Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication; and Committee on Federal Relations.

Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) was appointed chairperson of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs and Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare.

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) now chairs the Committee on Resources, Economic Development, Programs and Gaming.

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) was appointed chairperson of two committees: the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, and Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations.

At the House, Villagomez appointed Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) as chairman of two standing committees: the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Gaming.

Villagomez appointed Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) as chairman of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) was appointed chairwoman of the Committee on the Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

The Cannabis Committee goes to Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), while the Education Committee is now chaired by Rep. Manny T. Castro (Ind-Saipan).

Rep. Malcolm Omar (Ind-Saipan) was appointed chairman of the Committee on Health and Welfare, while Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) gets the Committee on Natural Resources.

Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) was retained as chairman of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs and Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) was appointed as chairwoman of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

Villagomez said yesterday that some of House members were appointed to appropriate committees as they have the necessary backgrounds and have made it one of their platforms to take on some of these issues.

For example, Villagomez said, Aldan was a good candidate to be the PUTC chairman as he’s been very vocal about that. He said Yumul has been in the House for a long time and had previously worked with the Ways and Means. Castro comes from the Northern Marianas College, he said, while Ogo has been in the private sector, Triple J, for the longest time.

“So I think we’re in good hands. And, of course, we’re all here to work together to tackle the issues. So I think it’s a good setup,” Villagomez.

BOOST

From page 1

Opportunities and Stability Together Program.

The senator noted in the resolution that it was shared during the recent hearings of two House of Representatives committees that intense efforts to promote the BOOST Program coincided with the election dates for the CNMI.

He said it was also discov-

ered during the hearings that approximately \$17 million of ARPA funds were allocated for the BOOST Program, with roughly \$15 million committed to approximately 400 applicants out of an application pool of more than 4,000 applicants.

Manglona said it was disclosed by the BOOST Program administrator, Bank of Saipan, that there was no standard operating procedure in place for the review or awarding process of the BOOST Program.

The senator said on Aug. 18, 2022, the BOOST Workforce Development Program was launched and funded in the amount of \$12 million from ARPA funds to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations.

Manglona said on Oct. 20, 2022, it was reported that the second BOOST application deadline of Oct. 18, 2022 was extended to Nov. 18, 2022, due to a large influx of

applicants.

Manglona said as of Dec. 1, 2022, it was reported that a total of 4,227 applicants for the BOOST Program had requested for a total of \$328,374,318.

He said of the total reported applicants, 605 applicants had been awarded a total of \$10.67 million through the BOOST Program, of which 241 small businesses were awarded \$10.49 million, and 364 fishers, farmers, and ranchers were awarded \$182,000.

SEIZURE

From page 1

Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy has issued a warrant of arrest in rem against funds that were seized in 2019 from two Bank of Saipan accounts that are believed to have been involved in a recent wire fraud and money laundering scheme uncovered by the FBI and IRS. The amount seized from both accounts totals \$310,276.26.

According to the warrant of arrest, Kennedy ordered the U.S. Marshals Service and or any other duly authorized law enforcement officer to arrest

and take into possession the monies by serving a copy of the warrant to the custodian of the funds.

The judge issued the warrant of arrest in rem following a verified complaint for forfeiture in rem filed by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Districts of Guam and the NMI.

The U.S. government, through the U.S. Attorney’s Office, filed last Dec. 30, 2022, a complaint for forfeiture with the U.S. District Court for the NMI for the over \$310,000 the court previously seized from Bank of Saipan accounts held in the name of “MCS.”

“MCS” is a consultancy

company whose head, A.Y. is believed to have been actively involved in the recently discovered money laundering and wire fraud schemes uncovered by the FBI and IRS-CI within the CNMI involving local political figures and what the complaint states as the company that was awarded the CNMI’s exclusive gaming license, presumably referring to Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC.

The complaint did not directly name IPI, but it is the only exclusive casino license holder on Saipan.

According to the complaint filed by attorneys Shawn An-

derson Jessica F. Wessling, Eric O’Malley, and Mikel Schwab, the United States filed the civil action to forfeit over \$310,000 “defendant funds” seized by the District Court from the “MCS” bank accounts because, following an investigation by the FBI and the IRS-CI, it is believed that the proceeds may have come from/or were used in wire fraud and money laundering schemes involving foreign entities and individuals in the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MAN

From page 2

also attempted to take off the face mask she was wearing prior to kissing her.

In a separate interview with the victim’s friend, police said she initially told investigators that she did not know what had happened to the victim.

However, the girl later said that, although she did not see anything, the victim did tell her that Enriquez had touched the victim inappropriately and kissed her while her friend was in the restroom.

Police also noted that messages between the two minors shared on social media about the alleged abuse have been obtained.

MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 19 at Kensington

After a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Marianas Tourism Education Council's Tourism Summit will return on Jan. 19, 2023, to engage students with information and activities focused on the Marianas' primary economic driver, tourism.

Over 300 members of the schools' MY WAVE — Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically — Clubs in grades 3-12 are anticipated to convene at Kensington Hotel Saipan for the day's event, co-organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. The theme of this year's summit is, "We're Back with Respect! Our People, Our Land, Our Guests," reflecting the resumption of the Marianas tourism industry and the value of respect among the people of the Marianas, which includes respect for natural resources and visitors.

"The MTEC has been collaborating with CNMI public schools for 20 years, focusing on the message that tourism is everybody's business," said MTEC acting chairwoman Vicky Benavente. "Even at a young age, kids do understand the importance of caring for their environment, so that our islands can remain a great place for tourists to visit."

The annual summit will fea-



MTEC

Dr. Bobby Cruz, State Education Agency director for Public School System Mental Health, will be one of the guest speakers at the 2023 Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit.

ture Gordon Marciano, managing director and part-owner of tour company Pacific Development Inc.; Kuen-Hee Han, managing director of 500 Sails; and Dr. Bobby Cruz, State Education Agency director for Public School System Mental Health.

MTEC's outreach activities this school year are supported by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The summit will also feature educational exhibits by Northern Marianas Technical

Institute, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife, among others.

Marciano began his career in the tourism industry as a child, when he was a part of one of the first indigenous dance groups to entertain Japanese visitors when the industry started. Over time, he has worked his way up through the ranks of PDI to the position of managing director. He is also a knowledgeable resource and advocate of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture and is chairman of Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc.

Han serves with 500 Sails, a non-profit organization that works to revive, promote, and preserve the maritime cultural traditions of the Marianas through community engagement in canoe culture and activities. She holds master's degrees in Korean Studies from Yonsei University's Graduate School of International Studies and Columbia University.

"Although I was born in the Republic of Korea, my heart is in the CNMI," said Han. "My move to Saipan was half induced by my inability to see how I can raise my little 4-year-old in the ultra-com-



MTEC

Gordon Marciano, managing director and part-owner of Pacific Development Inc., will be one of the guest speakers at the 2023 Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 19, 2023, at Kensington Hotel Saipan.

petitive South Korean environment and the need to start a new chapter in my life. I hope to bring about lasting change effective in how we forge relationships with our neighbors and nations—a change that will not only benefit my daughter who has reaped so much from what our islands have to give but to her entire generation and the next."

Cruz identifies with he/him pronouns and is a proud son of the Marianas with a doctorate in Educational Leadership. He is a longstanding educator, serving the Islands' public school system for nearly two decades. Cruz believes that education is the weapon against poverty, and he hopes



MTEC

500 Sails managing director Kuen-hee Han, left, and her daughter Soarin. Han will be one of the guest speakers at the 2023 Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit.

to inspire the youth the wield that weapon to do good for themselves and others.

For more information on

MTEC, contact MVA community projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com. (MTEC)

NEW WAVE DENTAL

Dental Assistant Needed Renewal (1) Full-Time

New Wave Dental is looking for one employee to work as Dental Assistant. Must have (12) twelve months experience in dental assisting. Applicants must have knowledge in dental procedure and dental terminology and be familiar with CDT Code and Nomenclature.

Interested applicants may submit their CV or Resume at the office location in Microbeach Road, Garapan Saipan MP 96950 during working hours from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 to 5:30. Interested applicant may also contact Dr. Michael Hall at telephone number (670) 233-3300 or (670)483-4868. Interested applicant may also send their CV or Resume at email address newwavedentalsaipan@hotmail.com or mikehalldds@hotmail.com

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MCS Knights wish all a joyous new year and holiday season

The 2022-2023 school year is a special year for all Knights at Mount Carmel School. It is the first school year where students and teachers aren't plagued with the fear of the COVID-19 virus and the restrictions required to keep its community safe. It is the first school year since 2020 where students and teachers can engage normally and all activities are reinstated to promote school spirit and morale. It is also the year Mount Carmel School celebrates its 70th anniversary, celebrating 70 years of faith, service, tradition, and excellence.

With all to be thankful for, the Mount Carmel School community participated in many holiday events to spread the Christmas spirit. This included the Marianas Visitors Authority's holiday competitions, caroling for the community, a school Christmas Show, and the concluding with the "Three Kings Concert" held this past Friday, Jan. 6, 2023.

In the MVA's holiday



MCS

Mount Carmel School's MCS Choir sings a variety of Christmas carols during the MCS Concert Band's "Three Kings Concert" on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023.

competitions, Mount Carmel School won first place in the High School Skit Contest, with its elementary and middle school winning second place. During the Recycled Christmas Tree Competition, Mount Carmel School won third place and placed fifth in the Christmas Village Competition. This momentous holiday festival is once again organized by the MVA, in coordination with the CNMI Public School System, pri-

vate schools, PDM Promoters, and Pacific Development Inc.

Prior to the school's holiday break, even Mount Carmel School's Choir aimed to spread the Christmas cheer by caroling throughout the campus and accommodated a special request to carol at the CNMI courthouse. On Dec. 16, 2022, the school community presented its annual Christmas Show, showcasing acapella performances by each grade level with members of their family cheering in the crowd.

To wrap up the holiday season, Mount Carmel School's Concert Band hosted its "Three Kings Concert," which included a special collaboration with the MCS Wind Ensemble, MCS Middle School Music Class Choir, MCS Choir, and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra.

While the holiday season is an incredibly busy time of the year, there is much to be thankful for. "For about two and a half years, we have all lived with fear about the pandemic, but during this Christmas season our school community aimed to celebrate all we have to be thankful for. We've survived a major challenge in our history, but our spirit continues strong and as the holiday season comes to an end, Mount Carmel School wishes everyone a joyous and happy new year," said School president Frances Taimanao. (MCS)



MCS

Mount Carmel School's first graders perform "Children Run Joyfully" during the school's Christmas Program on Dec. 16, 2022.



MCS

Mount Carmel School faculty stand by the school's recycled Christmas Tree as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Recycled Christmas Tree Competition at the Christmas Village in Garapan.



MCS

As part of the holiday celebration, Mount Carmel School's entire student body performed for their families during the annual Christmas Show on Dec. 16, 2022.



MCS

On behalf of the school, Mount Carmel School's faculty represented its students who won first place in the High School Skit Contest at the Christmas Village in Garapan.



MCS

Mount Carmel School's MCS Choir sang Christmas carols at the CNMI House of Justice to help spread the Christmas spirit this holiday season.



Mount Carmel School's Concert Band hosted its "Three Kings Concert" which included a special collaboration with the MCS Wind Ensemble, MCS Middle School Music Class Choir, MCS Choir, and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra.



MCS

Mount Carmel School's Middle School Music Class Choir play the recorder as part of the MCS Concert Band's "Three Kings Concert" on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023.

FOLLOWING FATALITY IN GUAM

USDOL to employers: Enhance safety measures in workplace, protect workers from crane risks

OSHA to inspect ports, construction sites, locations where cranes are used

DEDEDO, Guam—The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is urging em-

ployers in Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands to enhance safety measures to protect workers against crane hazards following a Nov. 25, 2022 crane-related death at the Port Authority of Guam. The incident is currently under investigation.

The most common crane hazards leading to serious injuries and fatalities include crane tip-overs, being struck by a crane, electrocutions, being caught in between a crane and other equipment or objects, falls from the equipment and unqualified operators.

In workplaces where cranes are operating, OSHA recommends the following safety measures:

- Use your experience, knowledge and training to assess risks and follow crane procedures.

- Do not operate a crane or hoist that is damaged or has any actual or suspected mechanical or electrical malfunction.

- Do not attempt to lengthen wire rope or repair damaged wire rope.

- Do not use the wire rope, any part of the crane, hoist, or

the load block and hook as a ground for welding.

- Do not allow a welding electrode to touch the wire rope.

- Do not remove or obscure any warning labels on the crane or hoist.

- Do not walk under a suspended load or allow anyone to walk under a suspended load.

- Do not perform or allow anyone to perform any work on a suspended load that requires a worker to be positioned under the suspended load

- Always use personal

protective equipment, such as gloves, hard hats, hearing, foot and eye protection.

"Injuries and fatalities related to crane operations are preventable with adequate workplace training and proper attention to safety controls," said OSHA area director Roger Forstner in Honolulu. "Employers need to take all necessary steps to reduce incidents involving crane operations and improve the workplace safety where cranes are in use."

As part of this crane safety initiative, OSHA compliance officers will conduct inspec-

tions at ports, construction sites and other locations where cranes are in use. The agency will also conduct outreach activities, on-site consultations and promote partnerships and alliances to improve compliance and prevent injuries and fatalities.

In 2021, 5,190 workers suffered fatal work injuries according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in its 2021 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries report.

Learn more about OSHA requirements for cranes and derricks in construction. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

High surf, risky rip currents seen

A high surf advisory remains in effect from 6am Thursday to 6pm Sunday along north facing reefs. A high risk of rip currents is also present.

Surf has currently diminished below advisory criteria but it will build back on Thursday to between 9 and 13 feet along north facing reefs of the Marianas. Dangerous rip currents expected.

These will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents

can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. (PR)

SINMI monthly meeting on Thursday

The Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands Chapter will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, Jan. 12 at noon at Grandvrio's Dolphin Restaurant. Join the group to help continue its work for the "Best for Women" in the CNMI!

The club is accepting new members. Come and meet us and see what we are all about.

We meet the second Thursday of every month for lunch. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake in Tinian region

At 9:54pm on Jan. 9, 2023, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 14.701°N 145.585°E, 29 kilometers south of San Jose on Tinian in the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.


For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)



NEW BOE MEMBER

Newly inaugurated Board of Education member for Tinian Antonio Borja poses with his wife, daughter, and Associate Justice Perry Inos after being sworn in Monday at the CNMI Board of Education's conference room on Capital Hill.

CHRISTAL MARINO


COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-23-004

A&E Design Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System Preliminary Engineering Report

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) for a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email to marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office via email after registration.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-23-004, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System - Preliminary Engineering Report"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 18, 2023. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 28, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer - via email, nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org; Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior - via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
 Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
 Purchasing Administrator


COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-009

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-009, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 19, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

A **Bid Guarantee** of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 29, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, Jr., CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
 Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
 Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Kevin McCarthy limps over the finish line to a job that he weakened

The only good thing about Kevin McCarthy scheduling his supposedly triumphant 14th House roll call vote that would finally make him speaker for 10 p.m. Friday, is that it wasn't a school night. McCarthy, of course, lost that 14th vote and 15th-round balloting went well past midnight. When McCarthy said, "Tonight, I want to talk directly to the American people," it was 1:17 a.m. Saturday and America was asleep, just like when George McGovern's 1972 Democratic nomination acceptance speech began at 2:48 a.m.

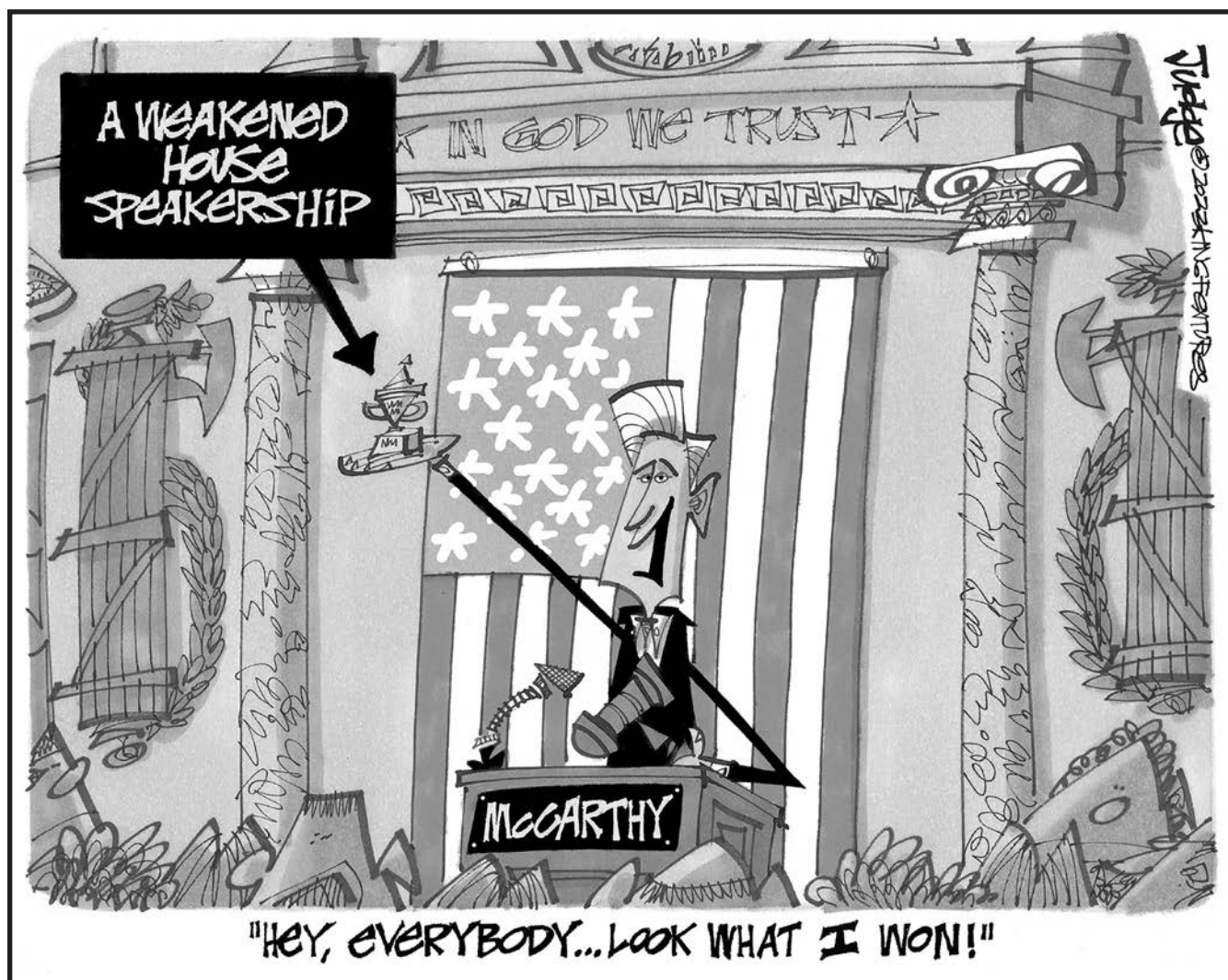
It was a pathetic display, not of democracy, but of factionalism, as James Madison warned about in Federalist No. 10. McCarthy had to bend, twist, beg and threaten to get a handful of Republican rebels to support him, but they never did. His victory, at 12:29 a.m., only came when the final member in the alphabetical roll call, Ryan Zinke, announced for McCarthy. And he still failed to garner the minimum 218 votes needed for a majority. The most he could muster was 216, so a handful of rebels skipped the vote or voted "present" to lower the threshold and let everyone go home.

It was fitting that Jan. 6 voting bled into Jan. 7, exactly what happened on Jan. 6, 2021, when Republicans rejected the 2020 election results.

There's winning ugly and winning by hook or by crook. And then there's winning but actually losing. McCarthy had to give away so much to survive that he can now be toppled by a vote requested by a single member. The shortest tenure for any House leader is held by speaker for a day New Yorker Theodore Pomeroy in 1869. If McCarthy hangs on until the House resumes Monday at 5 p.m., he will have bested Pomeroy.

The man who would be the next speaker from New York, Hakeem Jeffries, had a much better week, beating McCarthy on the first 11 roll calls. Getting the most votes 11 times is impressive, as the longest-serving speaker, Sam Rayburn, was only elected 10 times. And Jeffries didn't have a single Democrat, ranging from AOC on the left to Texan Henry Cuellar on the right, defect.

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Democracy means more than just holding elections

Democracy means more than just holding elections. And, "the people" are more than just voters. Yet, "we, the people," have allowed our role as popular sovereigns to be reduced to benchwarmers.

Democracy is supposed to be a system through which "the people" exercise power. That power appears to have been lost. We have effectively made "the people" the equivalent of designated hitters—we participate sparingly (every two years); give our best go at having an impact (casting votes in elections decided by other factors—namely, money); and, spend the rest of our time cheering for our respective teams.

We were never meant to ride the democratic pine. A glance at the state constitutions affirms the central role of "the people" in dictating how, when, and by whom political power is supposed to be exercised. State constitutions contain expansive language that empower "the people" to be far more than benchwarmers and spectators. These sources of people power, however, have been understudied and infrequently used by "the people" to assert more control over their democracy.

Twenty-eight state constitutions acknowledge the power of "the people" to alter or reform their government. From this sort of language, reformers passed the initiative and referendum—giving voters a chance to directly influence policy. Fourteen state constitutions provide "the people" with a meaningful and regular opportunity to change the form of their government (rather than just the elected officials who make up that government) by automatically placing the question of holding a constitutional convention on the ballot every couple of years. Five state constitutions explicitly declare that governments derive their "just powers" only from the consent of the governed.

In addition to these sorts of provisions, all state constitutions evidence a "Democracy Principle," as coined by law professors Jessiva Bulman-Pozen and Miriam Seifter in a recent Michigan Law Review piece. This principle can be summarized as a "commitment to popular sovereignty, majority rule, and political equality" within state constitutions. The Democracy Principle can and should serve as the basis for "the people" instituting novel democratic reforms to maintain and assert their power as sovereigns. The people of Ireland, Iceland, and France have revealed the power of one such reform—citizen assemblies.

Generally, citizen assemblies feature the random selection of a representative sample of citizens to study, debate on, and propose major policy or constitutional changes. You can think of citizen assemblies as really big juries. Like juries, citizen assemblies work best when they include people from all parts of

By KEVIN FRAZIER

The Fulcrum

Kevin Frazier will join the law school faculty at the University of South Dakota as a Visiting Professor starting Academic Year 2023.



society. And, like juries, citizen assemblies receive guidance and information from stakeholders—such as experts and, in some cases, representatives of partisan entities. Finally, both have clear tasks at hand—analyzing questions of fact and evaluating policy recommendations, respectively.

These sorts of democratic institutions pull the people off the bench and insert them into the game in a meaningful way. In doing so, people-centric institutions heighten the legitimacy of our democratic system and uphold the role of the people as popular sovereigns. They also tap into the collective wisdom that rarely appears in state legislators and Congress.

Other countries have realized that the wisdom of the crowd can help resolve big political and constitutional questions. As I outlined in my article in the Rutgers University Law Review: Iceland empaneled citizen assemblies to assist with rewriting their constitution; Ireland randomly selected residents to guide the nation's approach to reproductive health; and, France gathered citizens to inform the country's climate change policies as well as its stance on euthanasia.

State constitutions, whether through explicit provisions or the Democracy Principle, grant "the people" a constitutional basis to form citizen assemblies. State legislators who recognize that "the people" deserve more opportunities than elections to express their will should appropriate funds to support citizen assemblies. And, "the people" of each state should advocate for the organization of citizen assemblies on major policy topics that the political parties have refused to address or have inadequately approached.

Democracy is not meant to be a spectator sport, but special interests and certain partisan interests would be just fine with certain people staying on the bench. If "the people" are going to exercise their powers, then we ought to create new democratic institutions that recognize that power and give the people a meaningful chance to wield it—citizen assemblies are a great place to start.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The military could ease its recruiting crisis by doing more to resolve systemic racial issues

The U.S. military has entered 2023 amid its largest recruiting crisis since the end of the Vietnam War, with the possibility of being short thousands of new recruits. This year's National Defense Authorization Act cut the Army's size by 30,000 personnel, and the Pentagon is employing multiple methods to improve recruitment, from trying to reach Generation Z through video games and video game streamers, to increasing cash enlistment bonuses and changing mottos and commercials.

Blame for these shortages has been put on cultural issues, the state of the economy and other factors such as obesity and additional disqualifiers. However, there has been little discussion and recognition of how systemic disparities that some service members face in the military affect their propensity to join and serve.

Black service members make up 16% of the armed forces, according to 2017 Department of Defense data. Prospective recruits from this demographic who could be critical to solving the military's recruiting crisis may shy away from service due to ongoing disparities in the military justice system and health and career outcomes.

The armed forces have issues with sexual assault and violence against women that the Department of Defense hasn't adequately dealt with, along with systemic failures around suicide prevention and poor living conditions in soldier housing. Americans are increasingly less likely to join the armed services; even veterans are less likely to suggest it. Recently, the secretaries of the Army, Air Force and Navy wrote a commentary for *The Wall Street Journal* calling for young people to join the military because of the good it can do for them—but it is hard to see the good that can be had from military service if these multiple issues continue to occur.

Military leaders have blamed negative narratives around military service for preventing people from joining. But systemic racism and discrimination are an exacerbating factor to the nation's recruiting crisis—and therefore national security.

For example, the military's judicial system has no explicit category for hate crimes, which the federal government, 46 states and the District of Columbia have on the books, making it almost impossible to fully quantify racial discrimination in its ranks. Black service members are as much as twice as likely to face a court martial than white service members, according to an analysis by the advocacy group Protect Our Defenders, which focuses on military justice.

These convictions can lead to "bad paper discharges," which prevent service members from receiving benefits from Veterans Affairs. The status of attempts to reform the military justice system to deal with this issue is unclear.

Regarding suicide, Black service members have a suicide rate that is significantly higher than that of Black Americans who have not served, according to Defense Department data, a fact that has not been widely reported. Among Black veterans, the per capita suicide rate is double the national average for Black Americans who have not served, a 2021 VA report on veteran suicide shows.

Just as with health outcomes for Black civilians who never served, there is also a wide disparity between the health outcomes for Black and white veterans. A 2017 VA study found that Black veterans were less likely to receive diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder from VA compensation and pension examiners and that there is no current standardized system that forces examiners to use evidence-based assessment methods. A lack of a diagnosis from an examiner means that a veteran does not receive the tax-free monetary benefit paid to veterans for service-connected disabilities, and further, it means they cannot receive VA treatment for the illness or injury.

Based on a Defense Department report on officer promotion rates, Black male and female officers are promoted at a lesser rate for senior positions than their white counterparts. This lack of Black leaders at the highest levels is evident in the numbers.

By **DANIEL JOHNSON**

Chicago Tribune

Daniel Johnson is a Roy H. Park doctoral fellow at the Hussman School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Johnson was a journalist in the Army in 2016 in Iraq and has contributed reporting to The New York Times and The Washington Post.



In May 2020, there was just one Black four-star general in the Army versus 11 white counterparts, and there were two Black brigade commanders versus 94 white counterparts, according to Defense Department data.

Racism has long weakened the military from within, historian Natalie Shibley argued in a 2021 commentary for *The Washington Post*. It is still prevalent; nearly one-third of Black service members reported experiencing racial discrimination, harassment or both during a 12-month period, a 2017 Defense Department study found.

In the summer of 2020, in the midst of a national reckoning over race, the number of Black youths who indicated that they likely would serve in the military decreased by almost half versus the total from the previous summer, according to Defense Department polling. Last year, a survey by Blue Star Families, a group that advocates for military families, found many Black service members were turning down assignments based on a fear of racism at some duty stations and in certain career fields.

Any effort to solve the military's recruiting problems should seek to rectify the disparities that Black service members and veterans face. Just as Congress has done in the aftermath of the Dobbs ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*, decision-makers should discuss adding stronger protections for minority service members through policy and legislation.

The military is an organization that prides itself on defending our American ideals. Those ideals should be realized while a person is in the service.

'Night doctors' and other unsung heroes of the protests in Iran deserve our support

Dr. Aida Rostami, a 36-year-old Iranian physician, was found in dead in December, with her body showing signs of torture. According to news reports, she had lost one eye, and half her face was crushed.

Her crime? Rostami was a doctor committed to her Hippocratic oath. She was tortured to death simply for providing medical treatment to anti-regime protesters in Iran. On Dec. 12, she was taking care of several wounded protesters in Ekbatan District of Tehran when she left a protester's house to get supplies and was arrested.

Rostami vowed to become a doctor after losing her father to cancer when she was young. She risked her life saving Iranians during the pandemic, only to end up being tortured to death for helping her countrymen through a different kind of crisis.

Iran's anti-regime protests have continued for more than 100 days with slogans such as "death to Khomeini," referring to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, echoing all over the country. Tehran has responded with a heavy and ruthless crackdown. According to the main Iranian opposition movement, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, or PMOI/MEK, at least 750 protesters, including at least 65 juveniles, have been killed. As many as 30,000 have been arrested.

Accumulating reports describe security forces raiding hospitals and taking away protesters to be tortured and interrogated. A number of hospital managers have revealed that they have been forced to provide lists of patients to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. As such, many protesters have been avoiding hospitals, even after being severely wounded.

This phenomenon has spawned a network of "night doctors" who are dedicated to treating injured protesters outside of the hospital system and out of view of security forces. That network has produced many unsung heroes, and Rostami is not the only one to lose her life.

Neither is the current situation unique. In the 1980s, when I was a medical student at the University of Tehran in Iran, I treated several activists at their homes or wherever they were hiding from the authorities, with almost no equipment and meager supplies. I was arrested and severely tortured during that time and eventually transferred to a ward crammed with prisoners at Evin Prison. As soon as they found out that I was a medical student, my secret role as a prison doctor began.

I was lucky to leave prison alive, considering that I, too, was an activist with MEK. Then, as now, the MEK enjoyed massive support among people from all walks of life, including technocrats and physicians. It has been the clerical regime's archenemy since its inception, and as such, some 120,000 MEK activists, including more than 30% of my classmates, have been executed in Iran over the years.

After fleeing Iran, I became a professor of surgery in the U.S. and a surgeon-scientist, but although more than three decades have passed, I've never forgotten the anguish I saw among young activists in Iran, for whom I could do so little.

Iranians from all walks of life have risen up against the regime to establish a democratic republic. Once again, I find it encouraging that so many Iranian medical professionals have been defying the regime's efforts to entrap and arrest injured activists. Furthermore, I am proud that the MEK's resistance units have helped coordinate the network of night doctors while also playing a central role in the uprising.

Heroes such as Rostami are making the ultimate sacrifice to bring about democracy and freedom in Iran. Considering my own experiences, I can well imagine what Iranian doctors and nurses have been going through since the uprising began in mid-September.

By the end of November, it was reported that at least three doctors had been slapped with capital charges including "enmity

By **FIROUZ DANESHGARI**

Chicago Tribune

Dr. Firouz Daneshgari is an Iranian American surgeon and scientist based in Ohio.



against God." It became apparent that these charges might lead to the defendants' executions. At least two people have been hanged for their participation in the protests, and authorities have warned that many more could quickly follow.






The international community has duly condemned the two known executions and the accompanying death sentences, as well as the reported rapes of women in custody and the mass shootings of protesters in the streets. There is value in those statements, but with Iran's nationwide uprising entering its fourth month, it is becoming ever more important for Western democracies and human rights defenders to take concrete actions in support of the uprising, its participants and the principles of those supporting it, including Iranian medical personnel.

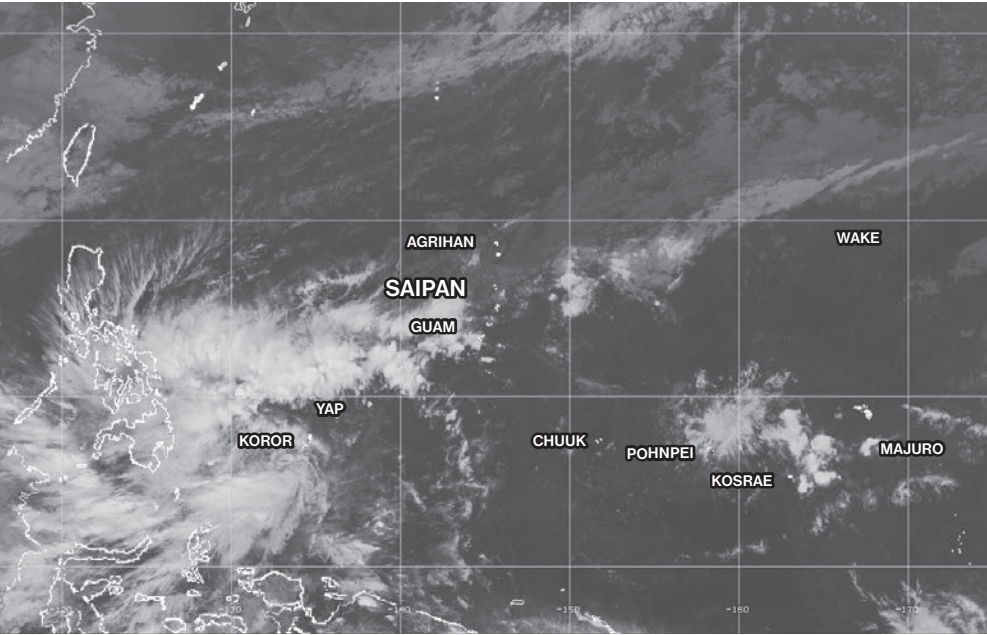
The international community should vociferously condemn the Iranian regime's atrocities and take actions such as imposing serious sanctions, halting negotiations with the regime and recognizing the right of Iranians to defend themselves. Medical associations should urge the U.S. government to do whatever it can to help Iranian protesters.

Rostami had the courage to risk her life for her commitment to her Hippocratic oath. Countless activists are demonstrating the same courage today—but also waiting to see what the free world will do to support them in their battle against the regime in Tehran.

Do our policymakers have the resolve to show the ayatollahs that they can no longer get away with the crimes they have been perpetrating for more than 40 years? I am hopeful at the start of 2023.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| TODAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy | | Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy | | A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny | | A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy | | A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy | |
| 81° | 79° | 81° | 79° | 80° | 75° | 80° | 75° | 80° | 75° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 9:05 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet which are composed almost entirely of a 6 to 8 foot northeast swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲▼°F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 84° / 76° | |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 83° / 76° | |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 84° / 77° | |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 83° / 78° | |
| Pohnpei | Showers | 85° / 77° | |
| Kosrae | Mostly Cloudy | 85° / 80° | |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:45 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Thursday | 6:45 AM | 6:04 PM |
| Friday | 6:45 AM | 6:04 PM |
| Saturday | 6:46 AM | 6:05 PM |
| Sunday | 6:46 AM | 6:05 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 9:42 AM | 9:34 PM |
| Thursday | - | 10:18 AM | 10:22 PM |
| Friday | - | 10:52 AM | 11:09 PM |
| Saturday | - | 11:27 AM | 11:58 PM |
| Sunday | - | 12:03 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲▼°F |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| Auckland | Showers/Wind | 70° / 63° | |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 41° / 29° | |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | 67° / 64° | |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 79° / 67° | |
| London | Light Rain | 50° / 43° | |
| Los Angeles | Thundershowers | 60° / 45° | |
| Manila | Mostly Cloudy | 84° / 74° | |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 86° / 62° | |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | 78° / 59° | |
| New York | Mostly Cloudy | 45° / 33° | |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 51° / 35° | |
| Paris | Light Rain | 54° / 48° | |
| Busan | Sunny | 57° / 42° | |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 56° / 44° | |
| Salem | Sunny | 64° / 40° | |
| San Francisco | Scattered Thunderstorms | 55° / 49° | |
| Seoul | Sunny | 46° / 26° | |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 50° / 34° | |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | 48° / 29° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 4:13 AM | Low Tide | -0.27 | |
| 11:21 AM | High Tide | 1.59 | |
| 4:59 PM | Low Tide | 0.99 | |
| 9:31 PM | High Tide | 1.46 | |

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | Daily | UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:46AM | Daily |
| SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA824 | 7:05AM | 9:45AM | 1, 3, 5 | UA825 | 9:25PM | 2:00AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| PR 111 | 5:30AM | 7:25AM | Daily | PR110 | 10:05PM | 3:55AM+1 | Daily |
| UA193 | 7:55PM | 11:50PM | 2, 5 via Palau | UA184 | 10:55PM | 4:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA183 | 8:00PM | 9:50PM | Daily | UA192 | 10:40PM | 6:30AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| | | | | UA189 | 12:40AM | 6:30AM | 3, 6 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:50PM | Daily via Guam | UA189/174 | 12:40AM | 8:46AM+1 | 3, 6 via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 11:50PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau | UA184/174 | 10:55PM | 8:46AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam |
| OZ624/701 | 3:50PM | 10:35AM+1 | 3, 6 via Incheon | UA192/174 | 10:40PM | 8:46AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| | | | | OZ704/623 | 11:50PM | 2:20PM+1 | 2, 5 via Incheon |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) | | | | INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 6:55AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 | OZ623 | 9:00AM | 2:20PM | 3, 6 |
| OZ624 | 3:50PM | 7:40PM | 3, 6 | 7C3406 | 10:10AM | 3:30PM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:35PM | 8:25PM | Daily | TW307 | 8:45PM | 2:15AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i> | | | | | | | |

| MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022 | | | | | |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | |
| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 7:00 A.M. | 7:15 A.M. | (Except Sundays) | 7:35 A.M. | 7:50 A.M. | (Except Sundays) |
| 9:50 A.M. | 10:05 A.M. | | 10:25 A.M. | 10:40 A.M. | |
| 4:00 P.M. | 4:15 P.M. | (Except Saturdays) | 4:35 P.M. | 4:50 P.M. | (Except Saturdays) |
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | ROTA TO SAIPAN | | |
| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 8:10 A.M. | 8:40 A.M. | | 9:00 A.M. | 9:30 A.M. | |
| 1:45 P.M. | 2:15 P.M. | | 2:35 P.M. | 3:05 P.M. | |
| SAIPAN TO GUAM | | | GUAM TO SAIPAN | | |
| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 11:10 A.M. | 12:00 P.M. | | 12:30 P.M. | 1:20 P.M. | |
| 5:15 P.M. | 6:05 P.M. | | 6:40 P.M. | 7:30 P.M. | |

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022 | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily | 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun | 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily | 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | GUAM TO ROTA | | | |
| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily | 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily | 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily | 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily | 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily | 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily | 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

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Business

United to host career fair in Guam for open roles in Denver

GUAM—United Airlines announced that it will be hosting a two-day career fair in Guam from Jan. 17 to 18, 2023 at the Hyatt Recency Guam from 9am to 4pm each day for open roles at its U.S. hub in Denver, Colorado. Anyone interested in learning more or applying for a role is invited to attend or apply online.

United looks to hire more than 1,800 people in Denver this year alone for key roles across various departments, including ramp services, aircraft technicians, facilities maintenance technicians, and storekeepers. The airline will offer a \$25,000 relocation incentive for Guam residents with proof of residency and the successful completion of the interview and clearance processes. A one-year commitment is required to be eligible to receive the incentive.

“This is an ideal time to join United,” said Sam Shinohara, United’s managing director of Airport Operations, Asia-Pacific. “We are excited to offer career opportunities to Guam residents that not only come with outstanding benefits, competitive pay, and flight privileges to travel the world but are based at one of our fastest-growing hubs with the opportunity for long-term careers and job advancement.”

Last month, United announced the largest wide-body aircraft order by a U.S. carrier in commercial aviation history—up to 200 Boeing 787 Dreamliners—bolstering the airline’s leadership role in global travel for years to come. The order is expected to generate an increase in hiring across every role at the airline. In 2022, United hired 15,000 new employees and is on track to add another 15,000 this year in the U.S.

Denver is one of United’s seven hubs in the mainland U.S. and home to nearly 9,000 employees. United is the largest private employer in the city of Denver and in 2022, increased the starting wage for Ramp Agent employees to nearly \$20 an hour.

How to apply

There is no appointment needed to attend, and walk-ins are encouraged. Candidates may register in advance through the following event’s designated QR code or at the Guam Hiring Event site.

A member of the United recruitment team will work with applicants to schedule a preferred time to interview. Applications will also be available at the fair. Applicants are requested to bring copies of their resumes for the application process. Same-day interviews will be conducted. Interested candidates may also apply online.

Employment or recruitment fair questions can be sent by email to DENAO-recruiting@united.com.

About United

United’s shared purpose is “Connecting People. Uniting the World.” From our U.S. hubs in Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark/New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., United operates the most comprehensive global route network among North American carriers. United is bringing back our customers’ favorite destinations and adding new ones on its way to becoming the world’s best airline. More information about the company can be found at united.com. United Airlines Holdings, Inc., the parent company of United Airlines, Inc., is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol “UAL.” (PR)

Trump’s longtime CFO faces sentencing for tax fraud scam

NEW YORK (AP)—Allen Weisselberg, a longtime executive for Donald Trump’s real estate empire whose testimony helped convict the former president’s company of tax fraud, is set to be sentenced Tuesday for dodging taxes on \$1.7 million in job perks.

New York Judge Juan Manuel Merchan is expected to sentence Weisselberg, a senior Trump Organization adviser and former chief financial officer, to five months in jail, in keeping with a plea agreement reached in August.

Weisselberg, 75, was promised that sentence when he agreed to plead guilty to 15 tax crimes and testify against the company, where he’s worked since the mid-1980s.

When he begins serving his sentence, Weisselberg is expected to be locked up at New York City’s notorious Rikers Island jail complex. He will be eligible for release after little more than three months if he behaves behind bars.

As part of his plea agreement, Weisselberg must also pay nearly \$2 million in taxes, penalties and interest, which he said he has made significant progress paying. He must also complete five years of probation.

Weisselberg faced the prospect of up to 15 years in prison — the maximum punishment for the top grand larceny charge — if he were to have reneged on the deal or if he didn’t testify truthfully at the Trump Organization’s trial. He is the only person charged in the Manhattan district attorney’s three-year investigation of Trump and his business practices.

Weisselberg testified for three days, offering a glimpse into the inner workings of Trump’s real estate empire. Weisselberg worked for Trump’s family for nearly 50 years, starting as an accountant for his developer father, Fred Trump, in 1973 before joining Donald Trump in 1986 and helping expand the family company’s focus beyond New York City into a global golf and hotel brand.

Weisselberg told jurors he betrayed the Trump family’s trust by conspiring with a subordinate to hide more than a decade’s worth of extras from his income, including a free Manhattan apartment, luxury cars and his grandchildren’s private school tuition. He said they fudged payroll records and issued falsified W-2 forms.

China economy recovering but hampered by virus outbreaks

BEIJING (AP)—Wang Jian is anxious to get back to work teaching basketball to children now that China has lifted anti-COVID-19 restrictions. But his gym in the eastern city of Shenyang has been closed for a month because all its coaches are infected.

The most optimistic forecasts say China’s business and consumer activity might revive as early as the first quarter of this year. But before that happens, entrepreneurs and families face a painful squeeze from a surge in virus cases that has left employers without enough healthy workers and kept wary customers away from shopping malls, restaurants, hair salons and gyms.

“I hope the situation will turn around in March or April with no more COVID shocks,” said Wang, 33, who went without a paycheck for four months when the gym closed during virus outbreaks. “If parents worry about possible reinfection, they simply won’t send their children for training.”

The abrupt decision by President Xi Jinping’s government to end controls that shut down factories and kept millions of people at home will move up the timeline for economic recovery, but might disrupt activity this year as businesses scramble to adapt, forecasters say.

“This will be a bumpy process,” said Dong Chen, chief Asia economist for Pictet Wealth Management.

“People still are struggling with infections, but we think this could be temporary,” Chen said. “Broadly, we think this is a positive surprise.”

The decision to accelerate China’s reopening is a boost for the global economy at a time when activity in the United States and Europe is weakening after repeated interest rate hikes by central banks to cool surging inflation.

It is likely to help revive auto sales and propel demand for imported consumer goods, oil and food in China, one of the biggest global markets. Countries including Thailand with big tourism industries look forward to an influx of Chinese travelers.

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
NORTHERN :
MARIANAS HOUSING, :
Plaintiff, :
-v- : **CIVIL ACTION**
RAMON S. DELA CRUZ : **NO. 18-0410**
and REBECCA C. :
DELA CRUZ, :
Defendants. :

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2022, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot no. 001 G 74, containing an area of 729 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 001 G 03, the original of which was recorded 20 March 1986 as Document no. 86-0510 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Total area of the property:
729 square meters

Known encumbrances:
A mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Date, Time, and Places of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 27, 2023, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of the title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request. A copy of the mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, a plat map showing the boundaries of the above-described property, a map of the property's location in Saipan, a copy of this Notice, and a copy of the Court's Order of October 14, 2022, are available for inspection and copying at the offices of the undersigned. Prospective bidders can view and inspect the property at any time during normal business hours. The sale may be postponed by the undersigned at any time.

Terms of Conditions of the Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Additional Terms and Conditions. A deposit of 10% of the successful bid is payable to the undersigned by the close of business of the date of sale, and the balance of the successful bid is to be paid within three (3) working days thereafter. The purchase price will be held in escrow pending approval of the sale by the Court. The sale is subject to the Court's approval. Upon approval by the Court, a Certificate of Sale will be issued to the successful purchaser upon satisfying the terms of payment. The sale is also subject to statutory redemption rights for 12 months following the date of sale. If the property is not redeemed during the redemption period, a Quitclaim Deed will issue, conveying title to the purchaser.

DATED, this 9th day of December, 2022.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



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LSG Sky Chefs is looking to hire qualified US workers for the following position:

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- Graduated from a recognized college or university with an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in Business;
- At least one year professional and administrative experience; or any equivalent experience and training which provides preferable knowledge, abilities and skills;
- Have knowledge of business practices and procedures;
- Must be proficient in the use of the English language (written and oral);
- Must be computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel)
- Good communication skills with acceptable telephone manner
- Good organizational skills
- Able to make independent, well thought out decisions
- Must be dependable and flexible

Applications are available at the Main Office located on Airport Road, situated between American Red Cross and Historic Preservation Office, or send resume to rita.taitano@lsgskycheffs.com.
Deadline for submission is Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Nation

Biden, López Obrador, Trudeau meet in Mexico City for summit

MEXICO CITY (AP)—President Joe Biden, Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are meeting for a series of talks on migration, trade and climate change on Tuesday as the three leaders try to mend tensions that have divided the continent.

The three-way gathering is held most years, although there was a hiatus while Donald Trump was U.S. president. It's often called the "three amigos summit," a reference to the deep diplomatic and economic ties between the countries.

However, the leaders still found themselves at odds, especially as they struggle to handle an influx of migrants and to crack down on smugglers who profit from persuading people to make the dangerous trip to the United States.

In addition, Canada and the U.S. accuse López Obrador of violating a free trade pact by favoring Mexico's state-owned utility over power plants built by foreign and private investors. Meanwhile, Trudeau and López Obrador are concerned about Biden's efforts to boost

domestic manufacturing, creating concerns that U.S. neighbors could be left behind.

The centerpiece of the summit will be hours of talks with all three leaders, but Biden will start Tuesday with a bilateral meeting with Trudeau. It's unlikely to be as contentious as his sitdown with López Obrador on Monday.

During that meeting, the Mexican leader challenged Biden to improve life across the region, telling him that "you hold the key in your hand."

"This is the moment for us to determine to do away with this abandonment, this disdain, and this forgetfulness for Latin America and the Caribbean," Lopez Obrador said.

Biden responded by pointing to the billions of dollars that the United States spends in foreign aid around the world, saying that "unfortunately our responsibility just doesn't end in the Western Hemisphere."

It was a noticeably sharp exchange after the two leaders had smiled and embraced and shaken hands for the cameras.

Biden and López Obrador



President Joe Biden, center, accompanied by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, arrives for a meeting with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador at the National Palace in Mexico City, Mexico, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023.

haven't been on particularly good terms for the past two years. The Mexican leader made no secret of his admiration for Trump, and last year he skipped a Los Angeles summit of the Americas because Biden didn't invite the authoritarian regimes of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

However, there have been attempts to thaw the relation-

ship. Biden made a point of flying into the new Felipe Angeles International Airport, a prized project of the Mexican president even though it's been a source of controversy.

The airport, which is expected to cost \$4.1 billion when finished, is more than an hour's drive north of the city center, has few flights and until recently lacked consistent

drinking water. However, it's one of the keystone projects

California deluge forces mass evacuations, boy swept away

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As another powerful storm walloped California, a 5-year-old boy was swept away by floodwaters Monday on the state's central coast and an entire seaside community that is home to Prince Harry, Oprah Winfrey and other celebrities was ordered to evacuate on the fifth anniversary of deadly mudslides there.

Tens of thousands of people remained without power, and some schools closed for the day. Streets and highways transformed into gushing rivers, trees toppled, mud slid and motorists growled as they hit roadblocks caused by fallen debris. The death toll from the relentless string of storms climbed from 12 to 14 on Monday, after two people were killed by falling trees, state officials said.

A roughly seven-hour search for the missing boy turned up only his shoe before officials called it off as water levels were too dangerous for divers, officials said. The boy has not been declared dead, said spokesperson Tony Cipolla of the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office.

The boy's mother was driving a truck when it became stranded in floodwaters just before 8 a.m. near Paso Robles, a small city inland from California's central coast, according to Tom Swanson, assistant chief of the Cal Fire/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department.

Bystanders were able to pull the mother out of the truck, but the boy was swept out of the vehicle and downstream, likely into a river, Swanson said.

that López Obrador is racing to finish before his term ends next year.

The U.S. and Mexico have also reached an agreement on a major shift in migration policy, which Biden announced last week.

Under the plan, the U.S. will send 30,000 migrants per month from Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela back across the border from among those who entered the U.S. illegally. Migrants who arrive from those four countries are not easily returned to their home countries for a variety of reasons.

In addition, 30,000 people per month from those four nations who get sponsors, background checks and an airline flight to the U.S. will get the ability to work legally in the country for two years.

There was no evacuation order in the area at the time.

About 130 miles (209 kilometers) to the south, the entire community of Montecito and surrounding canyons scarred by recent wildfires were under an evacuation order that came on the fifth anniversary of a mudslide that killed 23 people and destroyed more than 100 homes in the coastal enclave.

In Los Angeles, a sinkhole swallowed two cars in the Chatsworth area on Monday night. Two people escaped by themselves and firefighters using ropes and an aerial ladder rescued two others who had minor injuries, authorities said.

The National Weather Service reported rainfall rates of one inch (2.5 centimeters) per hour, with heavy downpours expected throughout the night in the upscale area where roads wind along wooded hillsides studded with large houses. Montecito is squeezed between mountains and the Pacific and is home to celebrities including Rob Lowe and Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

Ellen DeGeneres shared an Instagram video of herself standing in front of a raging creek near the Montecito home where she lives with her wife, actor Portia de Rossi. She said in the post that they were told to shelter in place because they are on high ground.

"This is crazy!" the talk show host, wearing a hoodie and raincoat, says in the video. "This creek next to our house never flows, ever. It's probably about nine feet up and is going to go another two feet up."

Having elected House speaker, Republicans try governing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Electing the House speaker may have been the easy part. Now House Republicans will try to govern.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy passed his first tests late Monday as the Republicans approved their rules package for governing House operations, typically a routine step on Day One that stretched into the second week of the new majority. It was approved 220-213, a party-line vote with one Republican opposed.

Next, the House Republicans easily passed their first bill — legislation to cut funding that is supposed to bolster the Internal Revenue Service. The Republicans' IRS bill ran into a snag ahead of votes because the budget office announced that rather than save money, it would add \$114 billion to the federal deficit. The measure flew through on another party-line vote, 218-210, though it has almost no chance of passage in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

It was an effective start to what could otherwise be a new era of potentially crisis governing. House Republicans are expected to be lurching from one standoff to the next after last week's raucous speaker's race that showcased the challenges ahead as McCarthy confronts a rebellious majority

as well as the limits of President Joe Biden's remaining agenda on Capitol Hill.

With sky-high ambitions for a hard-right conservative agenda but only a narrow hold on the majority, which enables just a few holdouts to halt proceedings, the Republicans are rushing headlong into an uncertain, volatile start of the new session. They want to investigate Biden, slash federal spending and beef up competition with China.

But first McCarthy, backed by former President Donald Trump, needs to show the Republican majority can keep up with basics of governing.

"You know, it's a little more difficult when you go into a majority and maybe the margins aren't high," McCarthy acknowledged after winning the speaker's vote. "Having the disruption now really built the trust with one another and learned how to work together."

But McCarthy himself announced Monday evening's final vote tally on the IRS bill to applause from his side of the aisle. "Promises made. Promises kept," he said in a statement.

As McCarthy gavelled open the House on Monday as the new speaker, the Republicans launched debate on the Rules package, a hard-fought 55-page document that Mc-

Carthy negotiated with conservative holdouts to win over their votes to make him House speaker.

Central to the package is the provision the conservative Freedom Caucus wanted that reinstates a longstanding rule that allows any one lawmaker make a motion to "vacate the chair" — a vote to oust the speaker. Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi had done away with the rule when Democrats took charge in 2019 because conservatives had held it over past Republican speakers as a threat.

Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Va., said the rules are about "getting back to the basics."

But that's not the only change. There are other provisions the conservatives extracted from McCarthy that weaken the power of the speaker's office and turn over more control of the legislative business to rank-and-file lawmakers, particularly those far-right lawmakers who won concessions.

The Republicans are allowing more Freedom Caucus lawmakers on the Rules committee that shapes legislative debates. Those members promise more open and free-flowing debates and are insisting on 72 hours to read legislation ahead of votes.

But it's an open question

whether the changes being approved will make the House more transparent in its operations or grind it to a halt, as happened last week when McCarthy battled through four days and 14 failed ballots before finally winning the speaker's gavel.

Many Republicans defended the standoff over the speaker's gavel, which was finally resolved in the post-midnight hours of Saturday morning on the narrowest of votes — one of the longest speaker's race showdowns in U.S. history.

"A little temporary conflict is necessary in this town in order to stop this town from rolling over the American people," Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, said over the weekend on CNN.

On Monday, Roy praised the new rules he helped craft, saying he could file a motion "right now" to demand a vote on the speaker — as it has been through much of House history.

But heading into Monday evening's voting on the rules package, at least two other Republicans raised objections about the backroom deals McCarthy had cut, leaving it unclear if there would be enough GOP support for passage. In the end, only Republican Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas voted against.

Asia

PH defense chief resigns

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The acting Philippine defense chief has resigned, officials said Monday, in the latest in a series of top-level changes in the country's security establishment that has sparked speculation of renewed military unrest.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. accepted "with deep regret" the resignation of defense officer-in-charge Jose Faustino Jr. and offered the top defense post to Carlito Galvez Jr., another retired general who has been involved in peace talks with insurgent groups, presidential spokesperson Cheloy Garafil said.

Galvez has accepted the offer, Garafil said without providing other details, including why Faustino, a former military chief of staff, decided to resign.

Marcos on Saturday cut short the term of military chief of staff Lt. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro, whom he had appointed five months ago, and replaced him with a retir-

ing general without explaining the surprise move.

Faustino is a supporter of Bacarro and the two were classmates at the Philippine Military Academy. Bacarro received the highest military award for combat bravery as a young army officer and his three-year term was supposed to continue until August 2025.

The appointment of military chiefs is a sensitive issue. The military has a history of restiveness, failed coup attempts and corruption scandals, and has faced accusations of human rights violations. Efforts have been made for years to instill professionalism in the military and insulate it from the country's traditionally chaotic and corruption-tainted politics.

Lt. Gen. Andres Centino, a military chief of staff whom Bacarro replaced in August last year, was reinstated by Marcos to the top post of the 144,000-strong armed forces. Centino, who was due to retire next month, was chosen

over a dozen senior generals and will have a fresh three-year term.

A new law that took effect last year fixed the term of the military chief of staff to three years to allow the top general more time to initiate reforms and press a years-long campaign to modernize the underfunded military, which faces Muslim and communist insurgencies and increasingly aggressive actions by China in the disputed South China Sea, where the Philippines claims contested islands, islets and reefs along with other nations.

Bacarro's sudden removal sparked speculation of renewed military restiveness after the national police went on alert over the weekend. But national police spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo denied the move was linked to any military restiveness and said personnel were placed on "heightened alert" mainly to secure an annual religious gathering in Manila.



ASIAN BRIEFS

China suspends visas for South Koreans in retaliation

BEIJING (AP)—China suspended visas Tuesday for South Koreans to come to the country for tourism or business in apparent retaliation for COVID-19 testing requirements on Chinese travelers.

A brief notice posted online by the Chinese Embassy in Seoul said the ban would apply until South Korea lifted its "discriminatory measures on entrance by China" to the country.

No other details were given, although China has threatened to take retaliation against countries that require travelers from China to show a negative test result for COVID-19 taken within the previous 48 hours.

China requires the same measures for travelers coming into the country. Beijing has been accused by the World Health Organization of withholding data on the state of the outbreak in China.

Pfizer's Paxlovid not included in China's national insurance

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Chinese health care authorities declined to include Pfizer's COVID-19 treatment drug in a national reimbursement list that would have allowed patients to get it at a cheaper price throughout the country, saying it was too expensive.

Paxlovid, an oral medicine

developed by New York-based drugmaker Pfizer, has been widely sought after in China since the country began phasing out its "zero-COVID" restrictions and a surge of infections started sweeping through the country. Although it is supposed to be prescribed by medical professionals, that hasn't stopped people from scrambling to purchase it on their own through any means at their disposal — including buying generic Indian versions of the drug through the internet, according to local media reports.

Indian held for unruly behavior with woman on airline flight

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian police have arrested an unruly airline passenger following a complaint by a woman aboard an Air India flight from New York that he urinated on her in business class.

Shankar Mishra was picked up by police in the southern city of Bengaluru and brought to the Indian capital on Saturday, New Delhi Police spokesperson Suman Nalva said on Sunday.

Nalva declined to say what Mishra told investigators after his arrest. The Times of India newspaper cited Mishra as saying that he was drunk and could not believe what he had done.

A New Delhi court sent him to prison for 14 days as police

investigate the complaint accusing Mishra of outraging the modesty of a woman during the New York-New Delhi flight. If convicted, he faces up to three years in prison.

Japan PM in Paris to discuss Ukraine, climate, food security

PARIS (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida started a weeklong trip to Europe and North America in Paris where he held talks Monday with French President Emmanuel Macron on key issues including North Korea and the war in Ukraine.

Kishida first visited Notre-Dame Cathedral with Macron before heading to the Elysee presidential palace for a working dinner.

Reconstruction work on the cathedral, ravaged by the April 15, 2019 fire, is expected to be completed in time for its reopening to the public next year.

Japan's historic Shuri Castle on the southern island of Okinawa, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was also nearly destroyed by fire in 2019. Both countries decided to rebuild the respective monuments exactly as they had been before.

Macron and Kishida's talks come as Japan is leading the Group of Seven most advanced economies and is preparing the next G-7 summit scheduled in May in Hiroshima.

World

Brazil probes who was behind capital uprising



Police officers take position as supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro leave a camp outside the Army headquarters in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. S

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazilian authorities said Monday that they were looking into who may have been behind the shocking uprising that sent protesters storming into the nation's halls of power in a riot that had striking similarities to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

In an unprecedented display for Latin America's largest nation, thousands of supporters of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro swarmed into Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace on Sunday. Many of them said they wanted the Brazilian army to restore the far-right Bolsonaro to power and oust

the newly inaugurated leftist president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Also on Monday, police broke down a pro-Bolsonaro encampment outside a military building and detained some 1,200 people there, the justice ministry's press office told The Associated Press. The federal police press office said the force already plans to indict roughly 1,000 people.

Lula and the heads of the Supreme Court, Senate and Lower House signed a letter that denounced the attack and said they were taking legal measures.

Justice Minister Flávio Dino told reporters that police have begun tracking those who paid

for the buses that transported protesters to the capital. Speaking Monday at a news conference, he said rioters apparently intended for their displays to create a domino effect nationwide, and that they could be charged with a range of offenses, including organized crime, staging a coup and violent abolition of the democratic rule of law.

"We think that the worst is over," Dino said, adding that the government is now focused on punishing lawbreakers and those who enabled them. "We cannot and will not compromise in fulfilling our legal duties, because this fulfillment is essential so such events do not repeat themselves."

Ukraine school rejects Russian claim of troops killed there

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine (AP)—Officials at a vocational school in an eastern Ukraine city dismissed claims by Russia that hundreds of Ukrainian troops were killed in a missile strike there, saying Monday that a rocket merely blew out windows and damaged classrooms.

Russia specifically named the vocational school in Kramatorsk as the target of an attack in the almost 11-month war. The Russian Defense Ministry said its missiles hit two temporary bases housing 1,300 Ukrainian troops in the city, killing 600 of them, late Saturday.

Associated Press reporters visiting the scene in sunny weather Monday saw a four-story concrete building with most of its windows blown out. Inside, locals were clean-

ing up debris, sweeping up broken glass and hurling broken furniture out into a missile crater below.

A separate, six-story school building was largely undamaged. There were neither signs of a Ukrainian military presence nor any casualties.

Yana Pristupa, the school's deputy director, scoffed at Moscow's claims of hitting a troop concentration.

"Nobody saw a single spot of blood anywhere," she told the AP. "Everyone saw yesterday that no one carried out any bodies. It's just people cleaning up."

She said that before the war began last February the school had more than 300 students, most of them studying mechanical engineering, with most lessons moving online when Russia invaded.

The students "are now

in shock," she said, adding, "What a great facility it was."

Ukrainian officials on Sunday quickly denied the Russian claims it had lost a large number of soldiers in the attack.

Despite the absence of any evidence, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said reports from the scene didn't shake senior officials' faith in defense authorities.

"The Defense Ministry is the main, legitimate and comprehensive source of information about the course of the special military operation," Peskov said Monday in a conference call with reporters, using the Kremlin's term for the war.

Both sides have regularly claimed killing hundreds of each other's soldiers in attacks. The claims can seldom be independently verified because of the fighting.

Good Housekeeping

New year, new start

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

Now that a new year has arrived, for many, it may signal a time to finally tackle some of those long-held-off projects around the house.

In general, when it comes to your home, there are maintenance tasks that you can and should do to preserve its look and efficiency that can also help bring you peace of mind. Looking to take on some maintenance tasks to kick off the new year? Here is a

quick-start checklist to get you on track. **1** Check your electricity usage and loads. Ask yourself: Are you using your home in the most energy-efficient way? Are your appliances working in a way that provides adequate out-

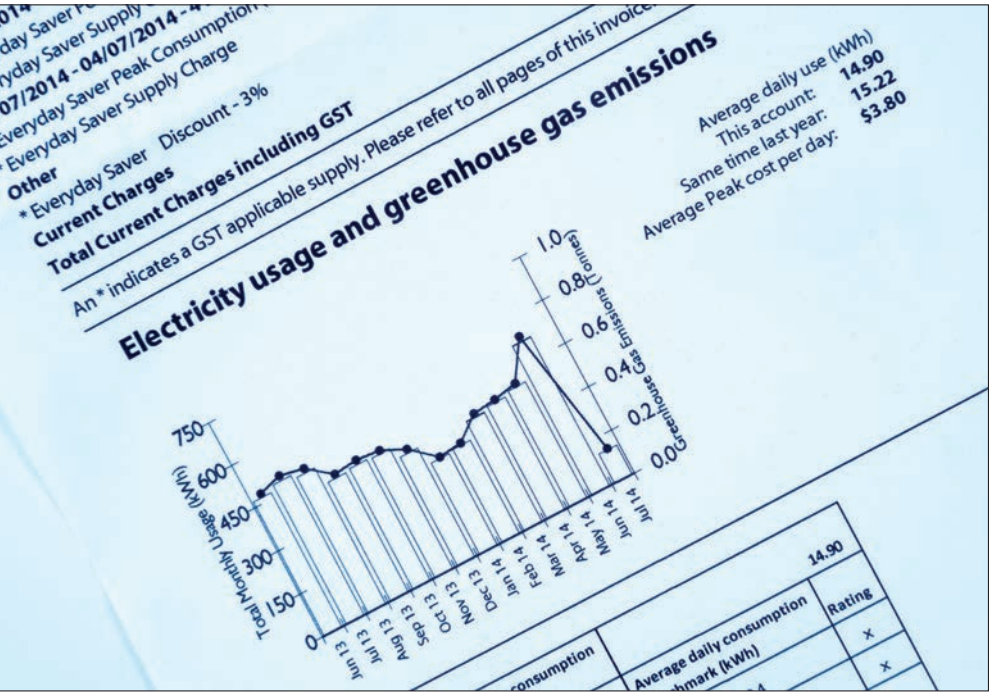
put while not wasting energy resources?

2 Check for leaks and openings. As winter hunkers down in certain parts of the country, this also means water elements such as snow and ice. Help maintain your house by making sure openings and gaps are shored up.

3 Prioritize and list home improvement projects. So many homeowners wait until they are faced with a long list of to-dos before making an action plan. Now is a good time to take a look around your home and make a wish list for the year.

4 Check windows and doors. During winter months there is a need to keep cold temperatures out and in summer months, to keep cool temperatures in. Summer is a good time to consider upgrading or replacing doors and windows.

5 Check the quality and integrity of key items such as HVAC systems, generators, battery backups, wells and septic tanks. Should core items fail during the heart of winter, it may be difficult to correct. Be proactive.



Are you using your home in the most energy-efficient way? DREAMTIME/TNS

DREAMTIME

ASK ANGI

How can I minimize water damage?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Angi

With the advent of spring and the rainy season, many parts of the country are heading into the wettest part of the year. Water damage—whether from rain, flooding or a plumbing leak—can be swiftly damaging and quite expensive. The average water damage restoration job costs about \$3,100. Two efforts can save serious amounts of money: preventative maintenance and fast cleanup. Here's a rundown of how to protect yourself.

Prevent the leaks

Your most effective tool against a flood or leak is being ready ahead of time. Keep your gutters and downspouts clean, as they can often contribute to a leaky basement. Check your appliances regularly for leaks and fix any problems promptly. Even a very small leak can cause tremendous unforeseen damage.

When you replace appliances, make sure you replace the hos-



DREAMTIME

Swift response is crucial to minimizing the effect of water damage. (Dreamtime/TNS)

es as well. A shiny new washing machine won't help you if a brittle old hose still connects it to the wall.

Consider installing water detection or floodstop devices near water heater, sump pumps, washing machines and other appliances at risk for leaks. These inexpensive devices shut off the water supply and sound an alarm when they get wet. If your basement starts to flood or a washing machine hose bursts, they could save you precious hours and hundreds in repairs.

Keep an eye on your water bill. Sometimes, a sudden jump in usage can give away a mystery leak.

Clean up fast

As bad as water damage can be up front, it's compounded by mold. When you leave standing water for any length of time, it allows mold to grow—even in places that might not be visibly wet!—and causes additional damage to surfaces. Water does its first round of damage within minutes, but after the first hour it can swell, add unpleasant odors and spread humidity all around the house. After several hours pass, wood and other surfaces can become unsalvageable.

The first thing to do in a leak emergency is shut off the water source. This is an easy one to miss in the course of a disaster! But obviously, if you have a water leak, you need to shut it down as quickly as possible. Find the shutoff valve for the fixture or pipe causing the leak and close it off. If you can't find or reach it, use the main shutoff valve, which is usually beneath your home or near the water meter.

Do whatever you can to mitigate damage right away. Use tarps and buckets to intercept water. Move furniture away from the water. As soon as the water stops flowing, start removing stagnant water with buckets and towels.

Once the immediate danger has passed, your first call should be to your insurance company. You want to begin documenting a claim, and they might have preferred contractors to help with the work. If it's after hours or you can't reach a claims rep, contact a water remediation company directly anyway. Those first minutes and hours count. These pros can assess and repair any damage caused by the flooding. They will know how to determine whether there's any risk of long-term damage or mold growth below the surface—and how to stop it.

While you're at it, stay away from electronics or appliances until you've verified they're safe to use.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.



IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Chelsey Frances Manibusan Reyes

“Lovingly known as Princess, Chels, Che, Teti Bear”
Born on **February 04, 1999** was called to her eternal rest on **January 01, 2023** at the age of 23.

Her Beautiful Soul and Precious Heart will forever be with:
Her Parents: Nick Joseph and Mary Michelle M. Reyes
Her Siblings: Frannie Lee Jade Manibusan/ Ricardo Jr. Delacruz
Amber Nicole M. Reyes/Colby Ogo
Niko Kane M. Reyes
Napu Uniku M. Reyes

Reared Siblings: Edward Luis A. Deleon Guerrero (Edward Jr./Angelina)

God Siblings: Joseph T. Reyes
Roman Franklin M. Tudela
Colvin R. Sablan
Chance B. Reyes

GrandParents: Jose A. Reyes/Soledad(Darlene) Duenas (Kapira)
†Francisca Masga Reyes
†Francisco B./Nelda M. Manibusan
†Dolores Masga Agulto
†Vicente/Primitiva DLG. Torres

God Parents: Roman Jr./Aristona M. Tudela
Nick R./Susana P. Sonoda

Paternal Aunts & Uncles: †Dennis M. Reyes & Children
Doreen R./Juan Sablan & Children
†Verna M.Reyes/John(Kristy) Lizama & Children
Jovene R./Patrick Ogo & Children
Germaine R./Peter Crisostomo & Children
Jesse/Gina Dela Cruz & Child
Anthony/Redie Dela Cruz & Children
Maynard D./Nicole B. Reyes & Children
Jolene Duenas/Vincent Quitugua & Children

Chelsey will be dearly missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at San Vicente Ferrer Parish at 6:00pm (Monday, Wednesday, & Friday), 6:00am (Tuesday & Thursday), 5:30pm on Saturday, and 9:00am on Sunday. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023. Our Beloved †Chelsey will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:45 a.m. followed by Responso service, Rosary, viewing, and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment services at the Santuario Pax Memorial Garden in Kagman where our Beloved †Chelsey will be laid to rest.

Maternal Aunts & Uncles: Aristona M./Roman Jr. Tudela & Children
Amelia M./Ralston Ogo & Children
Jocelyn M./Jesse M. Tudela & Child
Ding M./Jason Abe & Children
Laureen M./Vincent Deleon Guerrero & Children
Francisco Jr. M./Tearsha W. Manibusan & Children

YOUR LOVE, THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

NICK JOSEPH AND MARY MICHELLE M. REYES, CHILDREN & FAMILY

Life & Style

Prince Harry accuses Camilla of ‘dangerous’ leaks to media

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry has accused his stepmother, Camilla, the queen consort, of leaking private conversations to the media to burnish her own reputation as he promotes a new book that lays bare his story of his life behind palace walls.

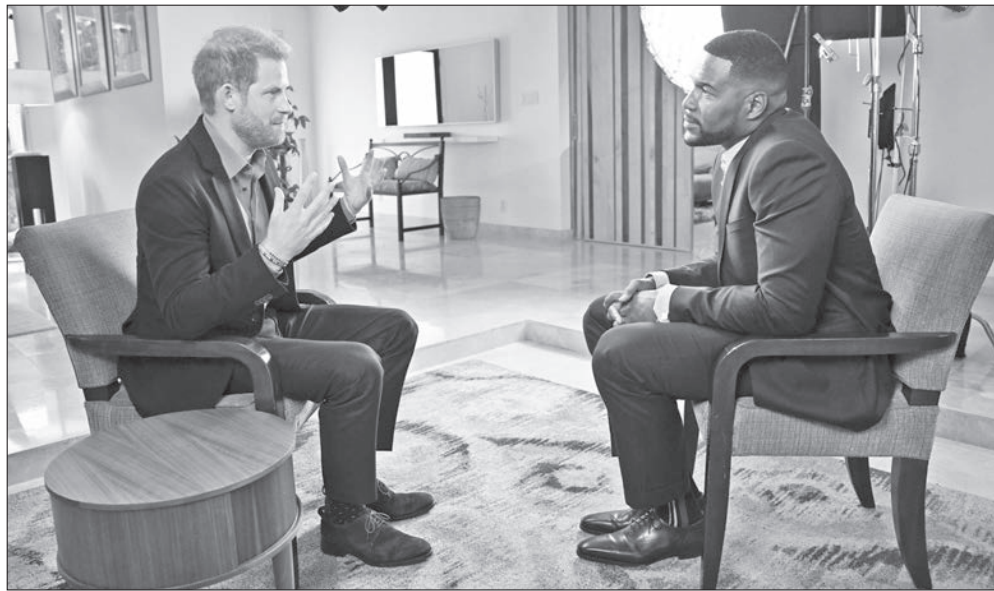
In interviews broadcast Sunday and Monday, Harry accused members of the royal family of getting “into bed with the devil” to gain favorable tabloid coverage, singling out Camilla’s efforts to rehabilitate her image with the British people after her longtime affair with his father, now King Charles III.

“That made her dangerous because of the connections that she was forging within the British press,” he told CBS. “There was open willingness on both sides to trade information. And with a family built on hierarchy, and with her on the way to being queen consort, there was gonna be people or bodies left in the street.”

Harry spoke to Britain’s

ITV, CBS’s “60 Minutes” and “Good Morning America” to promote his book “Spare,” which is to be widely released Tuesday. Some U.K. bookshops opened at midnight to meet demand for the highly anticipated memoir, which has generated incendiary headlines with reports that it includes details of bitter family resentments, as well as Harry and his wife Meghan’s decision to give up their royal roles and move to California.

“I want to be able to paint the picture myself, see it for myself, and then be able to say, okay, yes, maybe things have changed or maybe the person has matured,” said Chris Imfidon, chair of the charity Excellence in Education. He traveled from Essex to London to buy three copies of “Spare,” wanting to compare the media picture of Harry to what’s in the book. “If I just read in the newspaper, I don’t think I’ll be satisfied just hearing because each newspaper gives it totally different picture of the



This image released by ABC shows Prince Harry, left, during an interview with “Good Morning America” co-host Michael Strahan in Los Angeles on Jan. 3, 2023, to promote his memoir “Spare.” The interview airs Monday, Jan. 9.

duke, he said.

In the interviews, Harry repeatedly blamed the media for the troubles that afflicted the couple, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, saying the coverage contributed to the rift with his brother,

Prince William, and his wife, Kate.

“They always pitched us against each other,” he told Good Morning America. “They pitch Kate and Meghan against each other.”

Harry was also unapolo-

getic about launching legal battles against some parts of the British media. While he said his father believes it is “probably a suicide mission” to take on the press, Harry described changing the media landscape in the UK as being

“my life’s work.”

But Harry also continued to criticize the royal family itself.

He repeated his claim that there was “concern” in the royal family about his unborn child’s skin color after he married biracial American actress Meghan Markle. Harry and Meghan first mentioned the incident during an interview with Oprah Winfrey in 2021, but they haven’t identified the family member who expressed concern.

Harry insisted his family wasn’t racist, but said the episode was an example of unconscious bias. The prince told CBS that he was “probably bigoted” before he met Meghan, and said that the royal family, which is held to a higher moral standard, needed to “learn and grow” in order to be “part of the solution rather than part of the problem.”

“Otherwise unconscious bias then moves into the category of racism,” Harry told ITV.

Puerto Rico reggaeton singer accused of domestic violence

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Authorities in Puerto Rico arrested Randy Ortiz Acevedo of the popular reggaeton duo Jowell & Randy on domestic violence charges after a judge on Monday ruled there was sufficient evidence against the singer.

Ortiz, who is not required to enter a plea yet, was detained on a \$15,000 bond, prosecutor Anthony Oyola told reporters.

A publicist for Ortiz did not

immediately return a message seeking comment.

Oyola said the charges stem from a Jan. 7 incident but declined to provide further details given that it’s a domestic violence case. He added only that Ortiz’s mother testified on behalf of the singer before he was charged.

Jowell & Randy are considered reggaeton pioneers that began their careers 20 years ago.

Weinstein sentencing on rape conviction delayed to February

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harvey Weinstein’s sentencing for rape and sexual assault convictions was delayed Monday so that his attorneys can file a motion for a new trial. The 70-year-old former movie magnate could get up to 18 years in prison at the sentencing that is now scheduled for Feb. 23. He is already serving a 23-year sentence for a similar conviction in New York, which is under appeal. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Lisa

Lench said at a brief hearing that she expects Weinstein will be sentenced Feb. 23 should the motion be denied. On Dec. 19, a jury convicted Weinstein of one count of rape and two counts of sexual assault against an Italian model and actor who testified that he appeared uninvited at her hotel room door during a Los Angeles film festival in 2013. Jurors acquitted Weinstein of one count of sexual battery. They failed to reach verdicts after nine days of

deliberations on three other sexual assault counts. Lench declared a mistrial on those counts. Prosecutors said they have not yet decided whether to retry them. Weinstein pleaded not guilty to all of the charges and had denied ever engaging in non-consensual sex.

AP
Movie mogul Harvey Weinstein arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, March 2, 2014.



Anger issues become hurdle in romance and on the road

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem I just can’t identify. I suppose it’s a combination of a lot of issues. I live with my boyfriend and work from home. When it comes to patience about almost anything, I have the shortest fuse. Simple things trigger me, and I flare up quickly.

If I see someone driving faster than me on the road, I resent it. Something on TV or even the wrong food will trigger me. My boyfriend takes the brunt of it. Other than my lack of patience and flying off the handle, everything is going relatively well. How can I get a grip and stop overdoing it when I get angry?

SHORT FUSE IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR SHORT FUSE: You need to deal with two separate issues. Your tendency toward competitive driving is dangerous to your health and others you encounter on the road. Our streets and highways are dangerous enough without motorists treating the privilege of driving as a competition.

The purpose of driving is to arrive at one’s destination safely rather than to compete with other commuters. When your stomach starts to tighten, ask yourself: “Could something other than road conditions be what’s bothering me?” Then give yourself a pat on the back for your insight and ease up on the accelerator.

Although your boyfriend may have the patience of a saint, unless you learn to control your impulses, you will drive him and others away. There, too, it’s important to identify what may really be making you fly off the handle. “The wrong food” or “something you saw on TV,” while frustrating, are excuses—not necessarily the cause.

I publish a booklet, “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With it.” It contains suggestions for managing and constructively channeling anger or frustration in various situations. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

It takes self-control to react maturely without exploding. If the suggestions in my booklet do not help you overcome your problem, consider discussing it with a licensed mental health professional. Becoming more in touch with your emotions will help you not only calm yourself without losing it, but also maintain the respect of others.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a sophomore in high school, and I recently got into a relationship. This isn’t my first rodeo when it comes to this type of stuff, but in this instance, the guy I’m dating has never been in a relationship before. This is his first time. Because I’ve done this before, I know what to do in cer-

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



tain situations and understand social cues. How do I go about teaching him about certain aspects in a relationship? Like, how do I get him to make the first move and things like that?

WONDERING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WONDERING: Be patient. Don’t pressure him. Remember, everyone advances at their own rate. If what you want is a kiss, ask him for one. With a little help from you, I’m sure he will figure it out.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With it.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

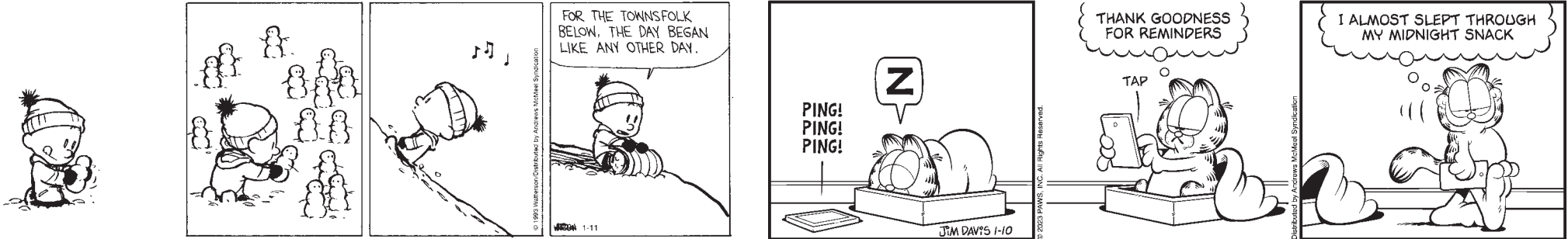
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

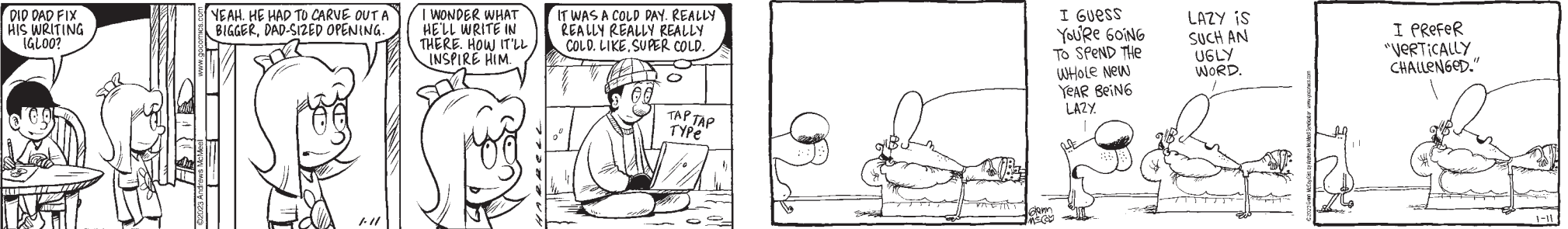


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Red planet

5 Language akin to Thai

8 Mimicked

12 Skip

13 College URL

14 New Delhi dress

15 One of a fairy-tale trio

17 Egyptian deity

18 Commercial cow

19 Fabric sample

21 Hammer target

24 Out — limb

25 Robbers' foes

28 Eye drop

30 Occupation, for short

33 "Entourage" role

34 Heat to near boiling

35 Docs' bloc

36 Favorite

DOWN

1 Sulk

2 Lawyer

3 Splits

4 Wood

5 Country

6 Okla-homa

7 Partially

8 Chinese

9 Buffet

10 Idle or

11 Platter

16 Actress

20 Dictionary

22 Craving

23 Tether

25 Upper limit

26 Metal

27 Relentless

29 Medicinal plant

31 "Little Teapot"

32 Sharp turn

34 Chimney

38 Snowman's nose

40 Ignited

42 Arctic explorer

43 Pal

44 Sitarist's music

45 Tater

47 "Fernando" group

48 Lure

49 Pvt.'s

52 Arles pal

53 Skillet

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aja Naomi King, 38; Amanda Peet, 51; Mary J. Blige, 52; Kim Coles, 61.

Happy Birthday: Position yourself for success. Put your to-do list in place and reach out to those you need in order to fortify your dreams. Your objective is to keep moving forward, regardless of what happens around you. Stay true to yourself and those you love, and ignore what's in your way. The changes you make will greatly impact what's important to you moving forward. Your numbers are 8, 10, 24, 27, 30, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Negotiate on your behalf. What you propose will lead to success and financial gain. The extra detail you inject into your work and express to those in a position of power will resonate and bring about change that makes your life easier. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sit tight and let the dust settle. Check out ways to keep up with the trends and ensure you have the latest technology to enhance your offer. A meeting with someone who knows more than you will confirm your thoughts. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A partnership may entice you, but do your due diligence first. Put greater emphasis on the way you present yourself and a connection to someone who brings out the best in you. If you present your thoughts, someone unexpected will back you. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Nurture someone going through a rough time. Your kindness and patience will help you recognize the skills you have to offer. Re-thinking how you want to use your experience

and insight for a prosperous venture will ease stress. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your choices will be up for questioning, and the outcome will impact your next move. Be true to yourself, and don't apologize for looking out for your best interests. A networking event will lead to a tempting deal. Don't invest cash; offer your services. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you follow your heart, something good will transpire. Criticism will distance you from what you want. Focus on dealing with people openly and incorporating suggestions offered. You'll get the backup you require to reach your objective. Speak up. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will spin out of control if you don't address issues head-on. Listen to the input offered and do what's best for the majority. A short trip, meeting or event that focuses on personal growth will point you in the right direction. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Work quickly, leave nothing to chance and shoot for the stars. Make your plans evident to those who can see the value in following through. Establishing yourself in a community that welcomes cutting-edge ideas will boost your ego and promote success. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When you think you have everything in place, someone will offer profound insight into something you must consider. Honesty will be necessary if you want to put uncertainty to rest. Do your best to avoid giving someone the wrong impression. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Broaden your horizons and see what others offer. Look at your investments and consider the best place to put your money. A change at home may not please everyone. Stop talking and start doing; your vision will be accepted and put into place. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Discover possibilities through trial and error. Listen to the experts, then develop a plan that honors the rules and links you directly to someone who can make your dreams come true. Romance and self-improvement projects are favored. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your imagination will lead to ideas that capture the attention of someone who can see your vision and harness what it is you want to achieve. Don't be offended by suggestions; embrace offers that add value to the outcome. ***

Birthday Baby: You are expressive, bright and articulate. You are charming and unbiased.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 9 | 7 | 2 | | 8 | 1 | |
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Difficulty Level ★★

1/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★★

1/11

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHAT'S TODAY'S WORDLE?

Solution: 6 letters

E E L A T O T R A T S H I N T
L D M D R O W R E T U P M O C
U F A A P R E D I C T W P A R
R K I E G U E S S X I S S D T
E C L V R R T V O W E L E D I
W O L L E Y S U B M I T G A L
S L D N E E R F I R S T N I E
N B N U N E C T K L E V E L G
A I I F T L K A F A M I L Y N
W S M T A R E R P L A Y L B A
O O E R O R E P O S T E A R R
R L I Y T S O N L I N E H A R
R V W S H S H A R E U L C I A
A E L Z Z U P O S I T I O N E
N O I T I T E P M O C O L O R

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1/11

Answer, Block, Brain, Challenges, Clue, Color, Competition, Computer, Daily, Family, First, Five, Fresh, Fun, Game, Green, Guess, Hint, Letter, Level, Mind, Narrow, New York Times, Online, Play, Position, Post, Predict, Puzzle, Read, Rearrange, Rule, Share, Six, Solve, Space, Spot, Start, Streak, Submit, Tile, Total, Tweet, Viral, Vowel, Winner, Word, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: The Killer

Treasures 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

No. 1 Georgia bullies TCU 65-7 to win 2nd consecutive title

2022
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
JANUARY 10 IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.

INGLEWOOD, Calif.
(AP)—Stetson

Bennett flashed a wry grin as he walked off the field, stopping to hug coach Kirby Smart as the crowd roared.

It was all standing ovations and sideline snacks in the fourth quarter of college football's most lopsided title game.

In emphatic and overwhelming fashion, Georgia became the first team to repeat as College Football Playoff national champions and left no doubt the 'Dawgs are the new bullies on the block.

Bennett threw two touchdown passes and ran for two scores — in the first half — as No. 1 Georgia demolished No. 3 TCU 65-7 on Monday night.

The Bulldogs (15-0) are the first repeat champs in major college football since Alabama went back-to-back a decade ago. There appears to be a new dynasty emerging from the Southeastern Conference.

"We wanted our kids to play without fear," Smart said. "All year I told them, I said, 'We ain't getting hunted guys, we're doing the hunting, and hunting season's almost over. We've only got one more chance to hunt,' and we hunted tonight."

TCU (13-2), the first Cinderella team of the playoff era, never had a chance against the Georgia juggernaut. Unlike Michigan in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal, the Bulldogs would not succumb to the Hypnotoads' spell.

Georgia turned in one of the all-time beatdowns in a big game, reminiscent of Nebraska running over Florida by 38 in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl, USC's 36-point rout of Oklahoma in the 2005 Orange Bowl and Alabama's 28-point BCS blowout over Notre Dame in 2013.

But this was worse.

Too much talent. Too well-



Georgia head coach Kirby Smart kisses the championship trophy after the national championship NCAA College Football Playoff game against TCU, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, in Inglewood, Calif. Georgia won 65-7.

coached. Two straight titles for the 'Dawgs.

No team has ever scored more points in a national championship game, dating to the beginning of the BCS in 1998.

With 13:25 left in the fourth quarter, Smart called timeout in the middle of an offensive drive so Bennett could exit to hero's ovation in the final game of his circuitous college career.

"That was special," said Bennett, who finished 18 for 25 for 304 yards and four touchdown passes. "I'll remember that for the rest of my life."

Georgia offensive linemen were munching on chicken wings on the sideline as the game wound down. Then, for the second straight year, the Bulldogs were showered by confetti and presented a championship trophy.

"I love this team, I love those fans, I love our band. I love everybody," Bennett said during the presentation cere-

mony. "Back-to-back, baby. Back-to-back."

Smart is now 81-15 in his first seven seasons at Georgia with two national titles. His mentor, Alabama coach Nick Saban, was 79-15 with three titles in his first seven seasons with the Tide.

The Bulldogs were a different kind of dominant this season after losing 15 NFL draft picks from the 2021 team: not quite as stingy on defense, but more explosive on offense.

"Last year's team probably had more talent on it," Smart said. "But this year's team was different, like they had this eye of the tiger. They weren't going to lose."

Earlier in Smart's tenure at his alma mater, Georgia fans worried about whether the former defensive coordinator for Saban would be able to build an offense to match this high-scoring era of college football.

Under third-year coordinator

Todd Monken, the Bulldogs have become prolific, creative and diverse offensively. They picked apart TCU's 3-3-5 defense from all angles.

Versatile tight end Brock Bowers had seven catches for 152 yards. Receiver Ladd McConkey caught two TDs. Georgia ran for 254 yards with seven players gaining at least 10.

The Bulldogs scored all six times they touched the ball in the first half. Twice Bennett ran it in himself; the former walk-on turned two-time national champion was barely touched on the two quarterback keepers.

He hit a wide-open McConkey for a 34-yard score in the first quarter, a perfectly executed play out of a bunched formation that had TCU's defensive backs in disarray. Bennett's 22-yard score to Adonai Mitchell was a higher degree of difficulty, dropped in over a defender who had tight coverage.

It looked a lot like the

Bennett-to-Mitchell touchdown that gave Georgia a fourth-quarter lead it would not relinquish against Alabama in last year's CFP title game.

Georgia vanquished the Tide to break a 41-year national title drought last season, avenging its only regular-season loss in the process.

There was no such drama against the upstart Horned Frogs.

"The journey was great. It's something I'll never forget," TCU running back Emari Demercado said. "Obviously, didn't end how we wanted it, but at the end of the day this journey was something great."

These Bulldogs never had to worry about Alabama. They rolled through the SEC, survived Ohio State in a classic CFP semifinal and then completed a perfect season with an historic blowout.

"Do you have to take a loss to learn?" Smart said. "I

mean, why?"

Bennett hit Bowers for a 22-yard score with 10:52 left in the third quarter to make it 45-7. The sophomore from Northern California signaled touchdown while lying on the turf at SoFi Stadium. Bennett smiled as he tapped helmets with one of his linemen.

"He's got GOAT status and in Athens, Georgia forever," Smart said.

Georgia's famous bulldog mascot UGA could not make cross-country trip to root on his team, but it still felt a little like Sanford Stadium in SoCal.

Many of the TCU fans cleared out with more than half the fourth quarter left, choosing to venture out into a rainy and chilly night rather than watch any more of the massive mismatch.

"I'm disappointed we didn't make a better show tonight because that's not indicative of who we are. But we'll look back — it's going to take some time for the sting to go away, I assure you — but we'll look back on the season and build on it from here," first-year coach Sonny Dykes said.

Heisman Trophy runner-up Max Duggan threw two first-half interceptions in the final game of his roller-coaster TCU career. A four-year starter who never played in a bowl before this season, Duggan led TCU on one of the most improbable runs in college football history.

Unranked after a losing 2021 season and picked seventh in the Big 12, the Frogs won nine games by 10 or fewer points. They were within a victory of the program's first national title since 1938.

But they ran into a monster. "As long as you don't have entitlement in your program, you've got a shot," Smart said. "And right now we don't have that."

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—TCU coach Sonny Dykes sensed something wasn't right with his team when they came into the locker room after pregame warmups for Monday night's College Football Playoff championship game against Georgia.

It was just the start of what turned into a snowball effect that overwhelmed his team the rest of the night as the Horned Frogs' dream of turning into the princes of college football became a grim nightmare.

All the strengths that helped carry TCU to the title game were quickly taken away by Georgia in a 65-7 blowout loss at SoFi Stadium.

"You could sense some tension in the room (before the game). We haven't had that in the past. We've been pretty loose," Dykes said after his

TCU's dream of winning CFP title quickly became a nightmare

team finished 13-2 in what had been a storybook season. "The guys were really excited to play, really fired up to play. I thought we were probably just a little too fired up, maybe a little too emotional. And as a result did some things that we don't normally do. I just don't think we were in the state of mind that we needed to be in."

"We just dug such a big hole for ourselves. We never could quite get them stopped defensively. We never could get out of our own way on offense."

It was the most points TCU allowed in a game since a 70-35 loss at Texas Tech on Sept. 18, 2004.

Quarterback Max Duggan was under pressure most of

the night, the defense was unable to keep the Bulldogs out of the end zone and three first-half turnovers contributed to Georgia opening a 38-7 lead at halftime. It was cruise control from there for the Bulldogs.

Duggan, a Heisman Trophy finalist, completed 14 of 22 passes for 152 yards and two interceptions. The only time he got in any sort of rhythm was on the Horned Frogs' third drive of the game, which ended with the senior rushing around left end for a 2-yard touchdown to bring them within 10-7 with 4:45 remaining in the first quarter.

The touchdown was set up three plays earlier when Duggan connected with Derius Davis for a 60-yard comple-

tion to the Georgia 11-yard line.

The rest of the night, Duggan tried to avoid pressure, but was sacked five times. Even when he tried running on keepers, he often couldn't find an opening and didn't gain much.

"I think tonight was one of those nights where at least offensively we couldn't get anything rolling," said Duggan, who came out of the game midway through the fourth quarter. "They were playing well on defense. We were shooting ourselves in the foot. I was making bad decisions. I wasn't executing well and not putting us in a position to score some points and move the ball."

Any hopes Duggan and

TCU had of a comeback ended late in the second quarter when he threw his interceptions on consecutive series and Georgia converted both into touchdowns.

TCU's defense ended up being as overmatched as the offense. Stetson Bennett, receiver Ladd McConkey and tight end Brock Bowers found openings in the secondary and often had at least 3 yards of separation on receptions.

The Horned Frogs had held opponents to a 25.9% conversion rate on third down, but Georgia was 9 of 12.

"We just kind of beat ourselves up. Kind of just executed on our mis-alignments and kept scoring on those," linebacker Dee Winters said. "We just kept beating our-

selves up, just overthinking, trying to run too fast to the ball and things of that nature."

After being predicted to finish seventh in the Big 12, TCU was the first school from the conference in the CFP era to get to the championship game.

Dykes said it will take awhile to get over the sting of a huge loss, but with early freshmen enrollees starting classes next week, there won't be much of a break before preparing for next year.

"Obviously we didn't do a great job getting our guys prepared," Dykes said. "We've been on heck of a run, and it seemed like we just ran out of steam a little bit tonight. ... To come this far in a year is pretty remarkable, and got a lot of guys in that locker room that are hurting right now."

Bucks come from 17 down, stop Knicks' four-game win streak



NEW YORK (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo could feel the Bucks playing with more energy and could sense a shift in their confidence on their 3-point shots.

"Once we made one, then we made the second one," he said. "Then we made the third one."

And pretty soon, their 17-point deficit was gone.

Antetokounmpo had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Milwaukee rallied in the second half and beat the New York Knicks 111-107 on Monday night.

Joe Ingles added a season-high 17 points and Brook Lopez also scored 17 for the Bucks, who made 12 3-pointers after falling behind 70-53 with five minutes remaining in the third quarter.

"I think in the long run we're going to make a lot of those shots," Ingles said.

Lopez made one that snapped a 97-all tie before Jrue Holiday — forced to the bench after committing three fouls in the first 4 1/2 minutes — scored five straight Milwaukee points. The Bucks closed it out at the free throw line to snap the Knicks' four-game winning streak and bounce back nicely after allowing a season-worst 51 points in the first quarter of their loss to Charlotte on Friday.

Jalen Brunson scored a career-high 44 points for the Knicks, adding seven assists. Julius Randle had 25 points, 16 rebounds and five assists, but was just 1 for 12 from 3-point range.

The Knicks were hoping to continue streaking to the midpoint of their schedule, having followed an eight-game winning streak and a five-game



Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez (11) gestures after making a 3-point basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, in New York.

skid with four straight victories. They fell to 22-19.

Ingles, who didn't play for the Bucks until last month after missing the first 29 games recovering from a torn ACL in his left knee, helped fuel the comeback with five 3-pointers.

"It's nice to finish a game, it's nice to be in those situations obviously," Ingles said.

Randle finally made a 3-pointer after an 0-for-9 first half on the first possession of the third quarter, and his free throws capped a 13-2 spurt midway through the period that extended a six-point lead to 70-53.

Celtics 107, Bulls 99

In Boston, Jayson Tatum scored 32 points, Jaylen Brown added 19 as Boston beat Chicago and reached the

midway point of its season with the NBA's best record.

Grant Williams added 20 points and Al Horford had seven rebounds and eight points, including a clutch 3-pointer with 24 seconds to play that helped seal the win for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who are 29-12 after the first 41 games. Malcolm Brogdon scored 20 points for Boston, which played without injured point guard Marcus Smart.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 27 points, scoring 15 in the fourth quarter while leading the Bulls' furious comeback bid. Chicago, which had won three straight, lost DeMar DeRozan in the third quarter with a strained right quadriceps. Nikola Vucevic had 21 points and 13 rebounds for Chicago. DeRozan finished

with 13 points in 23 minutes.

Nuggets 122, Lakers 109

In Denver, Jamal Murray scored a season-high 34 points, Nikola Jokic recorded his 11th triple double of the season and Denver beat Los Angeles in a game in which LeBron James sat out due to a sore left ankle.

Jokic finished with 14 points — on 5 of 5 shooting — grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out 16 assists to help the Nuggets win their 11th straight home game. It's their longest home streak since capturing 12 in a row in 2018. Denver remains tied with Memphis for the top spot in the Western Conference.

Russell Westbrook finished with 25 and Thomas Bryant added 17 along with 10

boards for the Lakers, who saw their five-game winning streak halted.

James was ruled out hours before tipoff, joining injured forward Anthony Davis (right foot) on the bench. Patrick Beverley didn't play after halftime due to a hip injury.

Grizzlies 121, Spurs 113

In Memphis, Tenn., Tyus Jones, filling in for Ja Morant, had 24 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 16 and Memphis withstood a second-half comeback attempt by San Antonio.

Desmond Bane and Dillon Brooks finished with 15 apiece for Memphis, which played its second consecutive game without Morant, its leading scorer, who is nursing soreness in his right thigh.

Tre Jones led the Spurs with

18 points, while Josh Richardson added 16 points. Romeo Langford and Jakob Poeltl finished with 13 points each as the Spurs lost their second straight and fifth in the last six.

Kings 136, Magic 111

In Sacramento, Calif., Harrison Barnes scored a season-high 30 points and Sacramento hit a franchise-record 23 3-pointers in a win over Orlando.

Domantas Sabonis extended his double-double streak to 17 games and finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Sabonis leads the NBA in double-doubles this season with 30. Rookie Keegan Murray finished with 15 points, knocking down five 3-pointers.

Paolo Banchero scored 17 points for Orlando (15-26). The Magic have lost five of their last seven games. Franz Wagner finished with 16 points and Wendell Carter Jr. added 15 points and seven rebounds.

Pelicans 132, Wizards 112

In Washington, CJ McCollum scored 34 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 27 points and 12 rebounds as New Orleans beat Washington.

New Orleans (25-16), which had lost four of five, took the lead early in the second quarter and put the game away when it scored the first 15 points of the fourth quarter to take a 115-88 lead with 8:44 to play.

Washington (17-24) has lost three straight and was missing leading scorer Bradley Beal, who didn't play for the fifth time in six games with a strained left hamstring.

Kristaps Porzingis led the Wizards with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

Analysis: 3-point shooting leads to more scoring binges

By **NOAH TRISTER**
AP Sports Writer

Giannis Antetokounmpo set a career high with 55 points last Tuesday in Milwaukee's victory over Washington — and it wasn't even the week's top scoring performance in the Central Division.

That belonged to Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell, with a staggering 71 the previous night.

The NBA these past few weeks has featured an almost nightly display of one-upmanship among the game's greatest scorers. Whether it was Mitchell's extraordinary effort for the Cavaliers or Dallas' Luka Doncic reaching 50 points three times in a nine-day span, everywhere you turn, it seems like another player is putting up a huge total.

"I think there are a lot of

layers to it. You just see night after night, guys are having enormous offensive games," Wizards coach Wes Unseld Jr. said. "It's fun to watch as a fan, of course. Frustrating when you're trying to game plan to stop some of these guys because they're scoring at all levels — the paint, the 3s, getting to the line."

Ten different players have already scored 50 points in a game this season: Antetokounmpo, Mitchell, Doncic, Joel Embiid, Devin Booker, Anthony Davis, Klay Thompson, Pascal Siakam, Darius Garland and Stephen Curry.

Before 2016-17, no more than eight different players had ever had a 50-point game in one season, according to Sportradar. Since then, at least 10 have done it every season, including a record 14 in 2021-22. Some of this

is to be expected in what has become a very high-scoring era. NBA teams were averaging 113.8 points per game entering Monday night, which if it continues would be the highest mark for the league since 1969-70. But the overall scoring environment only tells part of the story.

In that 1969-70 season, teams averaged 116.7 points, but only two players had a 50-point game. In 1984-85, the highest-scoring season of the 1980s, teams averaged 110.8 points. But only five players — Bernard King, Larry Bird, Purvis Short, Kevin McHale and Moses Malone — produced a 50-point game that season.

So what's happening lately is not just higher scoring league-wide. The top players are also producing huge games with remarkable fre-

quency. Expansion may play a role. The number of teams is 30% higher than it was in 1985. More teams means more games, so it makes sense that there are more examples of a player scoring 50.

But the sport has changed in other ways too.

"Guys come into this league, and the most impressive thing is the skill set — the handle and the shooting," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "What's lacking, I think, is the foundation, the institutional knowledge that players used to have when they came into the league after a few years of college. Sometimes the defense isn't great. Transition defense is at an all-time low in this league."

Nowadays, basically every top scorer has some degree of proficiency from 3-point

range, whereas back in the '80s, some stars largely ignored the shot and nobody attempted all that many.

"Guys are taking 15 or 16 3s in some games," Los Angeles Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "Teams are encouraging guys to take those shots, and if you take so many shots, and if you get hot and make some you can score a lot of points."

So current players have a variety of ways they can accumulate points in a hurry, and the 3-point shot affects the game even beyond that. With so many players capable of making open 3s, teams can space the floor in a way that punishes defenses for double teams.

"You have to pick and choose the guys you try and double team and get the ball out of their hands because they are not great passers, but there are some guys who can score, but can also pick

you apart with their passing," Lue said. "So, when you have guys like that, you want to let those guys try and get theirs and take everyone else out, but sometimes it can backfire on you as well."

When King scored 60 points on Christmas in 1984, he didn't attempt a single 3. Even this year, Antetokounmpo didn't make any when he scored 55. But Mitchell attempted 15 and made seven in his 71-point game.

"I think that 3-point line, as we've seen over the years, has definitely changed the game," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. "Now you're getting more guys to embrace that. The volume of attempts creates those opportunities. It's pretty rare that guys are shooting 2 repeatedly to get to that 50-point mark. It's definitely the evolution of our game to see more of that. I would expect that trend to continue."

Interscholastic sports competitions return

By **LEIGH GASES**

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First up in a series of interscholastic sports competitions for the last half of the 2022-2023 school year is the continuation of the middle school girls volleyball tournament, followed by a long list of sporting events that will wrap up the school year.

For the third quarter of the school year which runs from January to March, middle school girls volleyball finished up the regular season last night, with the playoffs set for tomorrow, Thursday, Jan. 12, and the championship games scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14.



LEIGH GASES

Nick Gross, Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program director, talks during the opening day of badminton competition at the TSL Sports Complex last October.



MARK RABAGO

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays boys team is the defending champion of the Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race. They are seen here celebrating after coming in first in the 1,000m during the final day of the 2021-2022 competition held in the waters off Killili Beach in Susupe last April.

day, Jan. 14.

Co-ed high school badminton is scheduled to begin on Jan. 21; co-ed high school volleyball is set to begin Feb. 4; boys middle school volleyball—dates TBA (to be announced); co-ed elementary grass volleyball; boys high school basketball—dates TBA; and girls high school fastpitch softball

(pending fields and officials with dates TBA); and girls middle school soccer set to begin on March 26.

For the final quarter of 2023 from late March to May, is the PSS/McDonald's All School Athletics Championships (9U, 12U, 14U, & 18U divisions for both male and female students); co-ed elementary

“coach pitch” softball (pending fields and officials with dates TBA); boys middle school basketball; girls middle school fastpitch softball (pending fields and officials with dates TBA); girls high school soccer; and boys high school volleyball.

Nick Gross, Public School System athletics program di-

rector, said via an email interview that the “PSS Athletic Programs aims to continue strengthening our partnerships with NMSA Member Federations to improve the delivery of sport, as well as implementing our long awaited Fastpitch softball seasons as we are looking forward to refurbishing many of our school campus ballfields. Our programs will continue seamlessly throughout the remainder of the school year (June 2023).”

The beginning of the 2022-2023 school year saw the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic which began in 2020, that interscholastic sports saw an uninterrupted sports season. With that, Gross was asked how he would rate the program and he said an 8/10.

“Although this equates to an 80%, I feel that 2022 was a great year in returning to more ‘normal’ (whatever that means) programming and providing students with access to meaningful athletic opportunities. It was disappointing to forgo our annual PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletic Championships, last school year due to the preparations required to host the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, but now that we have a brand new (again, again) resurfaced track, we are super excited [to]

offer the program again this spring. Overall, 2022 was a great year to re-start the programs we offer students and we hope to continue in 2023!”

Even with the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 canceling the athletic championships last school year, Gross said that PSS’ role in the Games was a huge highlight of 2022. “Narrowing 2022 down to one specific highlight is difficult, but the role PSS played in ensuring a successful hosting of the Pacific Mini Games was surely one of the major highlights as it provided a platform for the students of the CNMI to witness Oceania’s top athletes firsthand and improve our local sport infrastructure, ensuring top-notch sport venues for years to come!”

Gross then encouraged more people to take part in the PSS Athletic Programs. “I would like to encourage the entire community to take a more active role in creating the community they wish to be part of! PSS Athletic Programs and all of our partner federations are continually looking to expand our offerings and improve the delivery of sport. With the support of the sporting community, we can and will accomplish these goals!”

HD

From Page 20

and 35 kg.

Siblings Kiien and Anniegail Manuel are also part of the camp and came out on top in their respective divisions. Kiien joined the 96-kg weight class and totaled 125 kg after completing all six lift attempts, while Anniegail topped her 64-kg weight class with a total weight lifted of 141 kg.

Meanwhile, 12-year-old

Gimed placed fourth in the 89-kg division after lifting a total of 120 kg. He missed only one attempt and successfully lifted 45 kg, 53 kg, and 60 kg in the snatch, and lifted 55 kg and 60 kg in the clean & jerk.

Gimed said the competition was good and that he felt confident in his snatch in which he said he broke his personal best and felt proud of it.

Proud coach Angel San Nicolas said after the event, “today, for me, it was really about them... Everyone in the

youth category hit personal bests—all of them, as expected. I have to set a standard for them and so they know what I’m capable of in the training room, so it’s only fair that I show them my 100%.”

As for his club, he said that it’s an extended branch of HD Weightlifting Academy in the Philippines in alliance with Olympic weightlifting gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz. He said her husband, Julius Naranjo from Guam is his and Diaz’s coach. “Her husband

is her strength and conditioning, and head coach, and he’s my head coach as well. And we’ve been working together with the kids. That’s something that I’ve kept from the public.”

As for why he just announced the club’s existence during the competition, San Nicolas said, “I wanted to surprise everyone [because] the public has never seen kids lift weights. Today, the intent was to break barriers and to remove the stigma that lift-

ing weights is bad for kids. And today proves that it’s wrong. Kids can lift weights with proper training and with emphasis on form and technique.”

San Nicolas said that he trains with the kids at the Get Fit CNMI Gym in Gualo Rai six days a week from Monday to Saturday. Along with his own weight training and fulltime job, he still manages to coach. “On top of coaching them, I have to worry about my training as well.”

In his weightlifting club, the main focus is the youth. “We want to focus on the youth talent.”

He also said that with plans of having weightlifting included in the interscholastic sports program and with most of his competitors in middle school, “today just proved that middle school

should be included. I believe middle school could compete against the high schools. They are very, very capable.”

The almost 30-year-old said he doesn’t know how much time he has left in the sport, “but I’m [going to] keep going hard and honestly, I’m not slowing down... I need these guys as much as they need me. A lot of times I decide I want to quit but it’s hard because of my passion for the sport.”

“I need the community to be behind us and to support weightlifting more. Even after the [Pacific] Mini Games, even after all that medal haul, I still feel like we’re still undermined and it’s okay—It’s okay. Slowly but surely, eventually we’ll be out there and the sport itself will get the respect it deserves in our community,” appealed San Nicolas.

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tion result from the MRA members. The election of officers are from you, the new board members. I am humbled by your confidence in me to continue as president.”

He also extended his gratitude to the MRA membership who entrusted him and the board to stir the motocross club for the next two years.

“So many of you took the time to attend the meeting, a total of 77 members young and old came to show their interest in MRA’s future. I assure each of you that we, the board, will continue to grow MRA and provide the best possible for motocross in the CNMI.”

Cepeda and company were elected following last week’s elections at the NMSA conference room inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Last week, Cepeda proudly proclaimed that MRA had a banner year in 2022.

“The year 2022 for Marianas Racing Association was very successful. I would rate it a 9 on a scale of 1-10. MRA successfully held seven points series races and a grand race participated by our racing family from the Guam Motorcycle and ATV Club. Putting together these races was a huge accomplishment by the MRA board members of 2022,” he said.

Cepeda said 2022’s highlight was hands down the TurkeyCross Race.

“I’d say highlight for MRA was definitely the huge success of the TurkeyCross Race held on the weekend of Thanksgiving with over 30 riders from the GMAC joining the race.”

The MRA president believes this is so because it showed that Saipan riders have steadily improved and are at par with riders from Guam.

“It showed the improvement in riding skills for all MRA members. Not only in the competition level but the riders’ improvements overall. It is highlighted in the number of crashes during the points series in 2022. MRA did not have any major injuries and the number of crashes during the races have decreased to almost none.”

The decrease in crashes came even as MRA welcomed new members and added new divisions such as the Intermediate Class and the Mama’s Class for the TurkeyCross, which was for one weekend only during the TurkeyCross Race.

As far as improvements on the Cowtown Race Track this year, Cepeda said MRA added an additional jump, widened the turns, put in new dirt, and also expanded the pits area.

“We are hoping to expand with a mini track for beginners by the start of the points series in 2023,” he said.

MRA is a non-profit sports organization committed to off-road racing in the CNMI and off-island.

LAM

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and 600 points, respectively.

Stella Choi, meanwhile, is No. 1 in the girls 12-and-under with her 1,000 points. She is followed by Emma Lang with her 750 points with Vivian Chung third with her 600 points.

In the boys 10-and-under,

Seungwoo Lee is ahead of the pack with 1,000 points with the Koning-Fong siblings—Cooper and Jackson—in hot pursuit with 750 points and 600 points, respectively.

The NMITA senior and junior rankings are used by the sports association to determine the players who will represent the CNMI in off-island competitions.



No. 1 Georgia
bullies TCU
65-7 to win 2nd
consecutive title
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Interscholastic
sports
competitions
return
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

HD Weightlifting CNMI makes debut



LEIGH GASES

HD Weightlifting CNMI members consisting of teenagers pose for a photo after the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

In a move to try and break the stigma against the youth in weightlifting, the HD Weightlifting Camp made its debut with its young competitors excelling last Saturday in the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Led by coach and weightlifter Angel San Nicolas, teenagers Jaden Andrew, Kiien Manuel, Sean Mateo, John Castro, Aiden Gimed, and Anniegail Manuel showcased their strength and wowed the spectators with their strength despite their young age.

Thirteen-year-olds Jaden Andrew and Sean Mateo duked it out in the 61-kg division, with Andrew coming out on top lifting a total weight of 133 kg, which is more than twice his body weight. Andrew missed only one lift in his last attempt at the clean & jerk of 80 kg.

His successful lifts were 55 kg, 60 kg, 63 kg, 65 kg, and 70 kg.

Mateo lifted a total of 80 kg after lifting 30 kg, 35 kg, 40 kg, and 45 kg.

Andrew said that he broke his personal bests in both lifts and thanked his coach for “training me everyday and

my parents for dropping me.” He also said he hopes he gets to join the Guam weightlifting competition in February.

John Castro, who is also in middle school, lifted a total weight of 63 kg. He successfully lifted 25 kg, 28 kg,

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Cepeda reelected president of MRA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda, third from left, poses with the rest of the 2023 officers of MRA following last week's elections at the NMSA conference room inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Also in photo are, from left, Dave Burger, Cuki Alvarez, Eleanor Cepeda, Bridgette Camacho, Ellery Cruz, Dave Celis, and Patrick Togawa. Not in photo is Ray Yumul.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda has been reelected at the helm of the motorsports club for



Along with Cepeda, Justis “Cuki” Alvarez also returns as vice president. Ditto for trea-

surer Dave Burger and secretary Eleanor Cepeda.

Also reelected for a new term is Bridgette Camacho on the MRA board, while Ray Yumul returns for another tour of duty as board member after resigning last year.

MRA, meanwhile, welcomed Ellery Cruz, Dave Celis, and Patrick Togawa as

new members of the board. They replace Henry Camacho Sr., Vanessa Camacho, and Amanda Cruz who all finished their two-year terms as board members of MRA.

Cepeda thanked the board for giving him a fresh two-year term as president of MRA.

“Thank you for accepting the nomination and the elec-

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Lam, Hwang are top juniors in latest rankings

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



La Hunn Lam is the top boys 16-and-under netter, while Hoo Hwang is the No. 1 girls 16-and-under player, according to the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

Lam took the No. 1 ranking among the juniors by virtue of his win in the 2022 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last November. There were no entries for both the boys and girls 18-and-under.

The TanHoldings tourney title gave the youngest player to ever suit up in Wimbledon with 1,000 points. He also got 250 points for winning the doubles with Henry Choi that gave him 1,250 so far for the season.

Simon Tang is currently at No. 2 in the boys 16-and-under with his 700 points—600 for finishing second in the TanHoldings tourney behind Lam and another 100 points



Lam

in doubles. Third place in the rankings is June Yu with his 650 points.

Wang, meanwhile, has 1,000 points to lord it over in the girls 16-and-under after winning the division in the aforementioned TanHoldings tourney.

Anne Lee is second in the age group with 750 points after finishing runner-up in

the division, while closing out the Top 3 is Irin Chung with 600 points as she came in second runner-up in the same competition.

In the boys 14-and-under, Si Woo Lee has the pole position with 1,000 points followed by Ryan Choi and Yutaka Kadokura with 750 points and 600 points, respectively.

Anne Lee leads the girls 14-and-under with 1,000 points with Hannah Chae second with 750 points.

Lina Tsukagoshi is third in the rankings with 600 points. Lee, Chae, and Tsukagoshi finished 1-2-3 in the TanHoldings tourney.

In the boys 12-and-under, Cody Park's 1,000 points spearheads the division with Michael Jeon and Daniel second and third with 750 points

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